Venus Versus Virus 2

Seven Seas

"THE SCENT... IT'S CALLING ME..."

With Sumire growing used to her new life as Lucia's fellow virus-hunting partner, time has only strengthened the pair's bond with each other. But that new friendship is put to the ultimate test when the mysterious power hidden deep within Sumire manifests itself in full berserker form, ready to slug it out with Lucia! And what's more... a mysterious "big bad" seems to be watching intently from the sidelines!

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MANGA

Seven Seas

Venus versus Virus

Illustrated by Atsushi Suzumi

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ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイアラス

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Venus Versus Virus

ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイアラス

VOLUME 2

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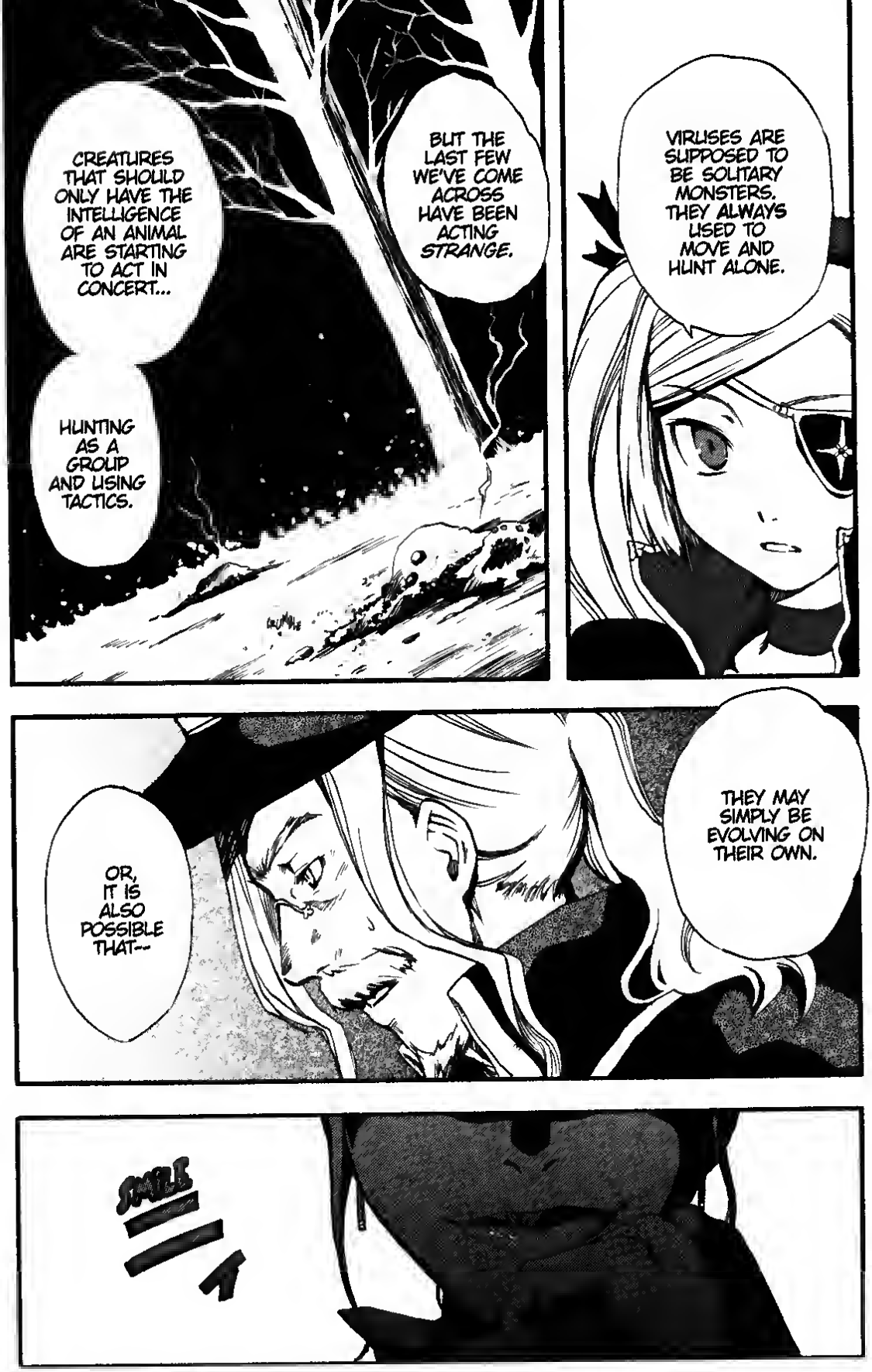
DA
ACK...!
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
TLK
GREEE
!
NOW, SUMIRE!
GHK

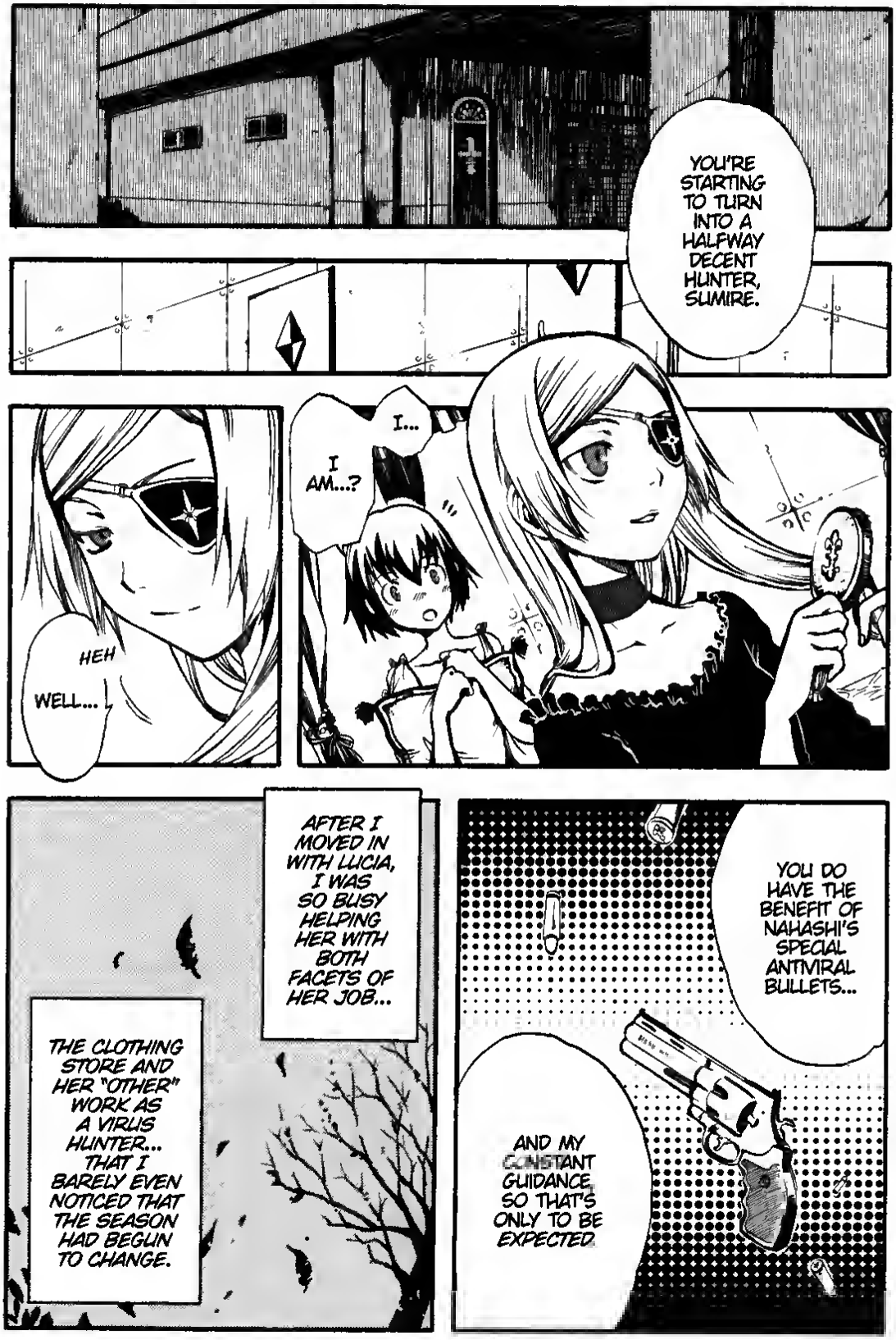
BANG

Piece 06: DARK. WORLD.

FSSSHHHH
HAAH...
SIGH
I... I DID IT...
GUOA?
SUMIRE !!
HUH ...?

SLASH
NAHASHI-SAN!
HAVE YOU NOTICED IT AS WELL, LUCIA...?
'FRAID SO.


VIRUSES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SOLITARY MONSTERS. THEY ALWAYS USED TO MOVE AND HUNT ALONE.
BUT THE LAST FEW WE'VE COME ACROSS HAVE BEEN ACTING STRANGE.
CREATURES THAT SHOULD ONLY HAVE THE INTELLIGENCE OF AN ANIMAL ARE STARTING TO ACT IN CONCERT...
HUNTING AS A GROUP AND USING TACTICS.
THEY MAY SIMPLY BE EVOLVING ON THEIR OWN.
OR, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT--
SMILE


YOU'RE STARTING TO TURN INTO A HALFWAY DECENT HUNTER, SUMIRE.
I... I AM...?
HEH WELL...
AFTER I MOVED IN WITH LUCIA, I WAS SO BUSY HELPING HER WITH BOTH FACETS OF HER JOB...
THE CLOTHING STORE AND HER "OTHER" WORK AS A VIRUS HUNTER... THAT I BARELY EVEN NOTICED THAT THE SEASON HAD BEGUN TO CHANGE.
YOU DO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF NAHASHI'S SPECIAL ANTIVIRAL BULLETS...
AND MY CONSTANT GUIDANCE, SO THAT'S ONLY TO BE EXPECTED.

I KEEP THE PROTECTIVE RING LUCIA GAVE ME ON ALL THE TIME NOW TOO. SO I HAVE HARDLY ANY PROBLEM GOING TO SCHOOL LIKE NORMAL.
AND THE GUN LUCIA-SAN TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE. I CAN TAKE OUT A BOTTOM-LEVEL VIRUS ALL BY MYSELF.
I STILL CAN'T USE THAT WEIRD POWER FROM THE FIRST TIME I MET A VIRUS. BUT NOW, WITH A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK...
IT STILL FEELS LIKE LUCIA-SAN AND I ARE WORLDS APART, AND I CAN'T SEEM TO SHORTEN THAT DISTANCE ANY.
THAT HASN'T BEEN GETTING BETTER, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY.
BUT THERE IS ONE THING...
NOTHING'S WRONG. UM...
OH YEAH...!
BLUSH
AH! ER...
UM... N-NO...
SOMETHING WRONG, SUMIRE?
?

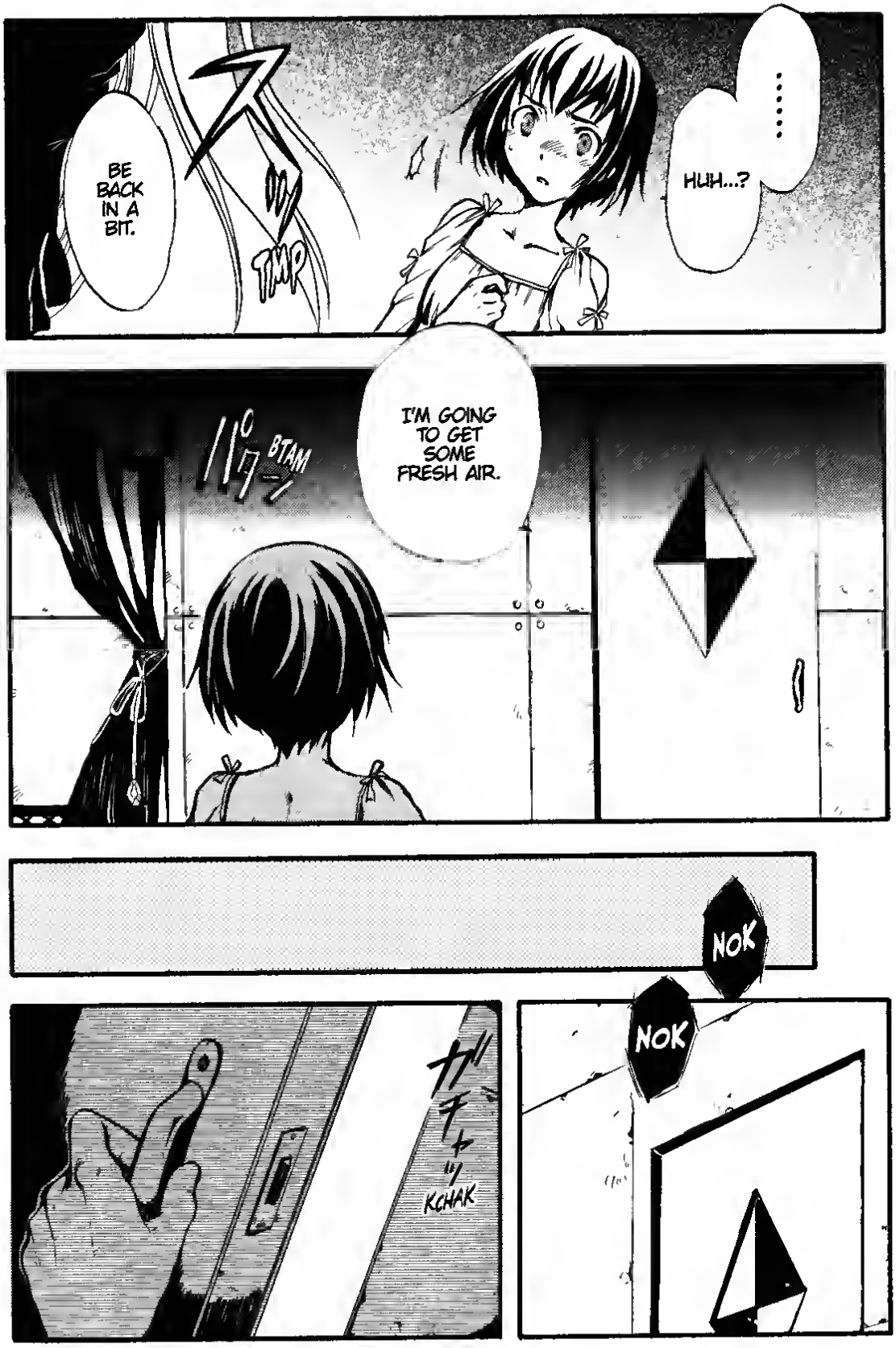
OH, WAIT.
SWEETS RIGHT BEFORE BEDTIME AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD FOR YOU, ARE THEY--
KLUNK
MAYBE WE COULD PUT ON SOME TEA TOO.
I JUST REMEMBERED! NENE-CHAN SHARED SOME OF THE COOKIES SHE MADE IN HOME EC WITH ME.
RUSTLE
SHUFFLE
RUSTLE
SHUFFLE
UM...
LUCIA-SAN?
CAN SEE IT...
I...

I CAN STILL SEE IT...!
THE ENCHANTED EYEPATCH SHOULD BE KEEPING IT COMPLETELY SEALED OFF!
NGK...!
BUT...
WHY...?! HOW...?!
RRG...
DARKNESS...
BOTTOMLESS, WRITHING, ABSOLUTE DARKNESS...
AN ILLUSION-- A VISION-- OF SOME WORLD THAT'S NOT MEANT TO BE HERE!..
NO...
WHAP

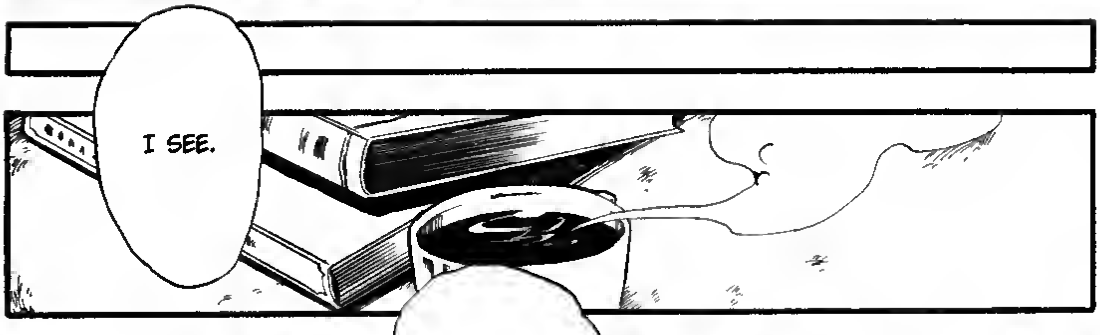
IT FEELS LIKE...
IT'S TRYING TO SUCK ME IN...!!
S-STOP ...!!
LUCIA-SAN?!
AH?

SUMIRE...
LUCIA-SAN...
YOU SCARED ME THERE FOR A SECOND. ARE YOU OKAY? DO YOU FEEL SICK?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
I'VE BEEN HAVING THIS FEELING MORE AND MORE OFTEN LATELY.
.....
I'M FINE. JUST A LITTLE DIZZY SPELL, THAT'S ALL.
BUT...

THEN IS IT HER FAULT THIS THING'S POWER IS GROWING?
SINCE ABOUT WHEN I MET SUMIRE, ACTUALLY.
WITH HER AROUND, I'M COMING ACROSS VIRUSES WAY MORE THAN I USED TO.
.....
UM, LUCIA-SAN...?
GLANCE
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EYE?
DID YOU GET HURT? IS IT... GONE?
AH...! I-IF THAT'S A SORE SUBJECT, THEN FORGET I ASKED! I'M SORRY!!
GONE...? NO.
THOUGH LIFE WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER IF IT WAS JUST BLIND.


BE BACK IN A BIT.
TMP
.....
HUH...?
I'M GOING TO GET SOME FRESH AIR.
BTAM
NOK
NOK
KCHAK

SUMIRE-KUN?


I SEE.

LUCIA HAD A *DIZZY SPELL*, DID SHE...?
I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WITH THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN...
BUT I JUST CAN'T STOP WORRYING.

I KNOW EVERYBODY HAS MEMORIES AND STUFF THAT THEY DON'T WANT OTHER PEOPLE BUTTING INTO...
AND I'VE DONE THE BEST I CAN TO NOT INTRUDE ON LUCIA-SAN'S PRIVACY TOO MUCH...
BUT...

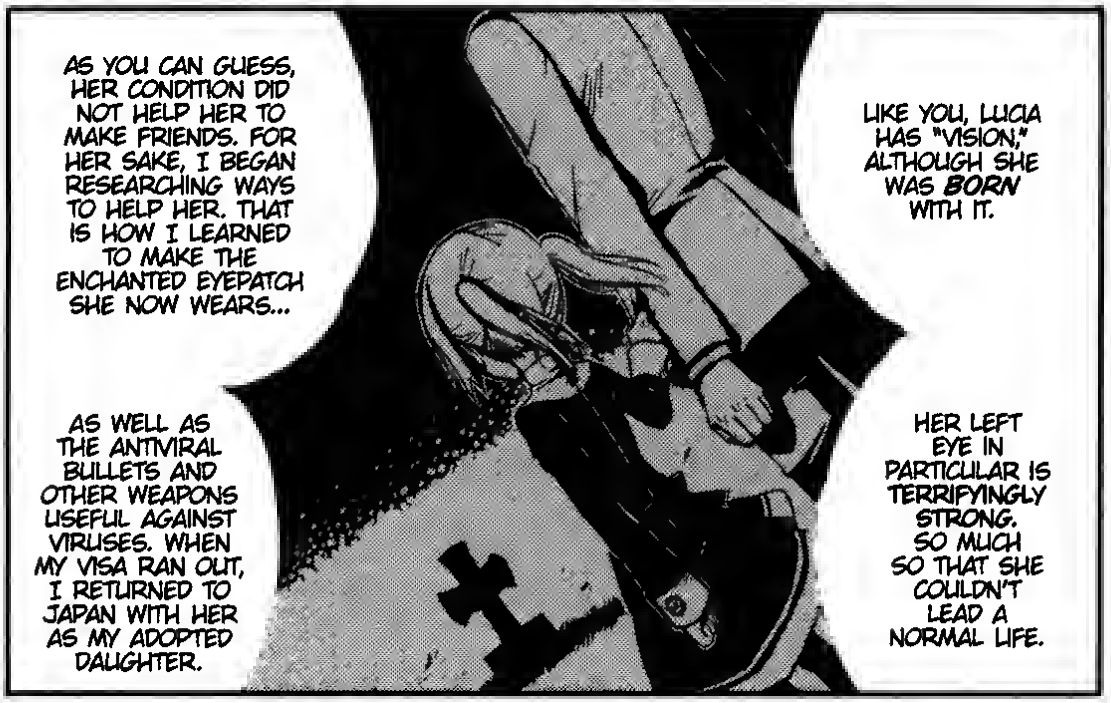
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE MET NOW...
BUT...
I'M STARTING TO THINK I DON'T KNOW NEARLY ENOUGH ABOUT LUCIA-SAN.

I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK...
THAT SHE'S TRYING TO HOLD ENTIRELY TOO MUCH INSIDE.

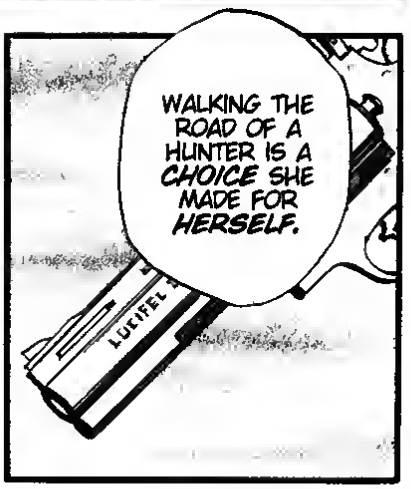
AS HER ADOPTIVE FATHER...
I MUST THANK YOU, SUMIRE-KUN.

AND, I GUESS I JUST... CAN'T LET THAT GO.
HNooo

I MET THEM WHEN I WENT OVERSEAS TO PURSUE SOME RESEARCH ON DEMONOLOGY I HAD BEEN DOING.
LUCIA IS THE DAUGHTER OF SOME OLD FRIENDS OF MINE, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE PASSED ON.


AS YOU CAN GUESS, HER CONDITION DID NOT HELP HER TO MAKE FRIENDS. FOR HER SAKE, I BEGAN RESEARCHING WAYS TO HELP HER. THAT IS HOW I LEARNED TO MAKE THE ENCHANTED EYEPATCH SHE NOW WEARS...
LIKE YOU, LUCIA HAS "VISION," ALTHOUGH SHE WAS *BORN* WITH IT.
AS WELL AS THE ANTIVIRAL BULLETS AND OTHER WEAPONS USEFUL AGAINST VIRUSES. WHEN MY VISA RAN OUT, I RETURNED TO JAPAN WITH HER AS MY ADOPTED DAUGHTER.
HER LEFT EYE IN PARTICULAR IS TERRIFYINGLY STRONG. SO MUCH SO THAT SHE COULDN'T LEAD A NORMAL LIFE.

THOUGH HONESTLY, FROM HER POINT OF VIEW, IT PROBABLY WAS NOT MUCH OF A CHOICE AT ALL.
SHE DESPISES VIRUSES TOO MUCH TO DO ANYTHING ELSE.


WALKING THE ROAD OF A HUNTER IS A *CHOICE* SHE MADE FOR *HERSELF.*
LUCIFEL

HENCE, SHE ALSO DESPISES HER OWN LEFT EYE.
SHE DOES?
WHAT DOES HER EYE HAVE TO DO WITH--?
SNAG
TUNK
OOPS...
SHF
TNK
?!

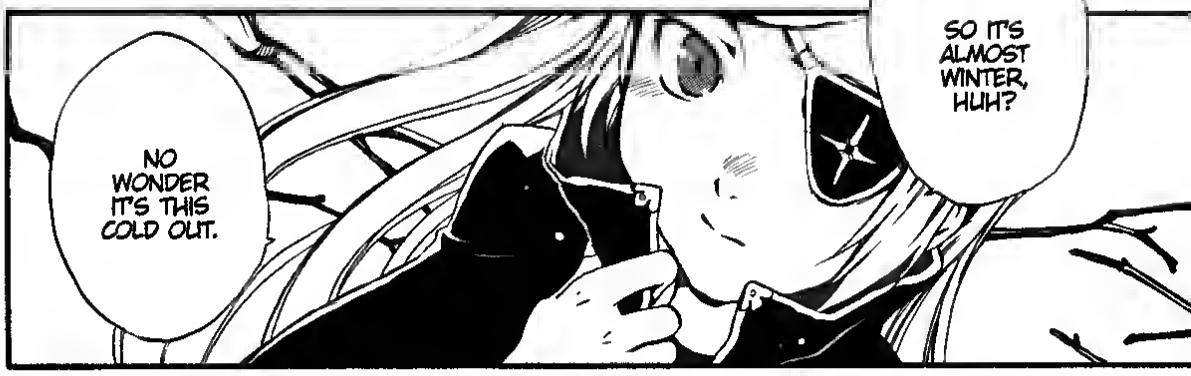
I, ER, CANNOT HELP BUT NOTICE...
THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE A SCAR-LIKE MARK ON YOUR COLLARBONE. I REMEMBER SEEING ONE THERE PREVIOUSLY.
SUMIRE-KUN.
YES?
.....?
A SCAR? N-NO...
I'VE NEVER HAD A SCAR ON MY COLLAR-BONE--
?!
IMPOSSIBLE! I KNOW WHAT I SAW!!
GRAB
WHA?!
NAHASHI-SAN?!
SHOVE

PLIK
WHIMP
OW...!!

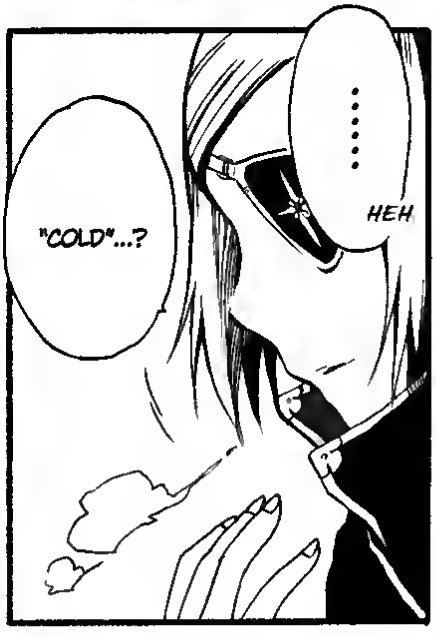
AH!
GOOD GOD!
SUMIRE-KUN, MY PROFOUND APOLOGIES. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT--
!?
SUMIRE-KUN...?
!

GLOW
LILLITH...
CALLING ME...

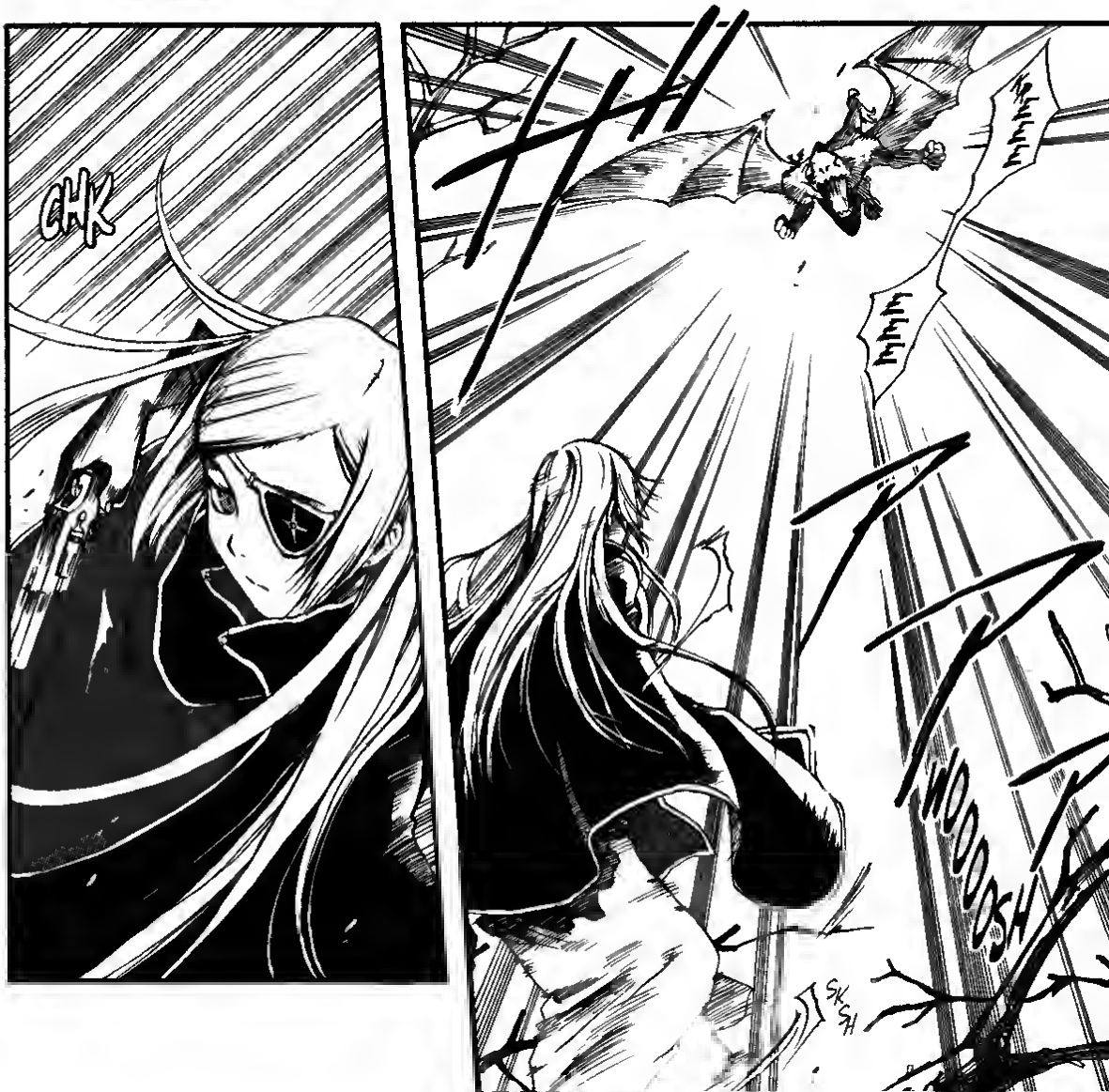
THE SCENT...
IT'S CALLING ME...


SO IT'S ALMOST WINTER, HUH?
NO WONDER IT'S THIS COLD OUT.

GOD, SOMETIMES I MAKE MYSELF LAUGH.
I MEAN, THIS BODY OF MINE HAS ALWAYS BEEN FREEZING.


.....
HEH
"COLD"...?

ALWAYS...


GHK
WOOOSH

KLIK
KLEEEEE
ERGH!!
BANG
FLIT
FLLLLLLLLL
GHAAAAAI!

SEE?
THESE HANDS OF MINE...
ARE QUITE COLD, AREN'T THEY?

FLIT
SO...
THAT LITTLE GIRL IS LUCIA-CHAN...
STARE
EXCELLENT.
AND THAT OTHER GIRL...

THAT POWER OF HERS... SHE'S A BER-SERKER?!
DEAR GOD...
SHE'LL HEAD STRAIGHT FOR LUCIA!

SNAP

SUMIRE...

MY, MY, MY...
WOOOOSH
EVEN BETTER.

Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard

SHNG
NNH!
SWISH

WHY...?
NGK ...
WHAP
TMP
SHF
WHY IS SUMIRE TRYING TO KILL ME...?!

Piece 07: SWEET. SCENT.

KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
SUMIRE!
ST--
STOP IT, SUMIRE!
THEY'RE EXACTLY THE SAME AS THEY WERE THAT ONE TIME.
-HFF-
KRIK
HER EYES...
THEY'RE CLOSE... TOO CLOSE... TO A VIRUS.
CAN'T USE MY GUN.
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT AN ANTIVIRAL BULLET WOULD DO TO HER!

AH!
!!
GRAB
SHE'S SO STRONG...!!
WEH!

FSK
HER MOVES... HER AURA...
TMP
PRE-CISELY THE SAME AS A VIRUS...
SKSH
!!
IF YOU JUST IGNORE THE FACT...

THAT SHE ISN'T TARGETING A HUMAN—
WOOSH
WHP
WIND, HEED MY CALL.
VNNN
FWOO
FP
?!
OOOF

FWOOOOOO
SKSH
WAIT... COULD SUMIRE BE...?!
NO... NOT QUITE...
FWOOOOOO
THE FLAME...
IT'S TURNING INTO A TORNADO ?!
...
FP

HUH...?
THMP
SHF
NA-NAHASHI ?!
LICK
YOU AREN'T THE ONE, NAHASHI-SAN.
THE SCENT... THAT LOVELY, *DELICIOUS* SCENT...
IS FROM *YOU*, LUCIA-SAN.
NO, NOT YOU...
PLIP

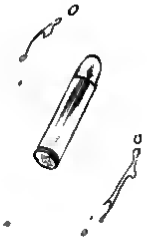
ALL I WANT FROM YOU IS YOUR--
?!
LUCIA, YOU MUSTN'T ...!
TP
THERE'S NO CHOICE! I HAVE TO RISK IT!
WHMP
BUT IF YOU DO USE THAT EYE, THEN--
?!

!!
SLUMP
THUD
WHAT THE HELL...?
GLOW
.....
COME.
VNNN

FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
WE ARE HERE...
SONOKA-SAMA.
TAK
KREEK
LISTEN WELL.
I HAVE NEW ORDERS FOR YOU.
TAK
KREEK

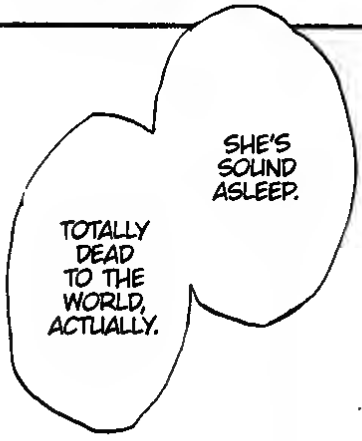
"ANTIVIRUS."
IN ALL LIKELIHOOD...
THE EXPERIMENTAL VACCINE SHE WAS EXPOSED TO RIGHT THEN...
HER POWERS ARE WELL BEYOND THE REALM OF A NORMAL HUMAN'S.

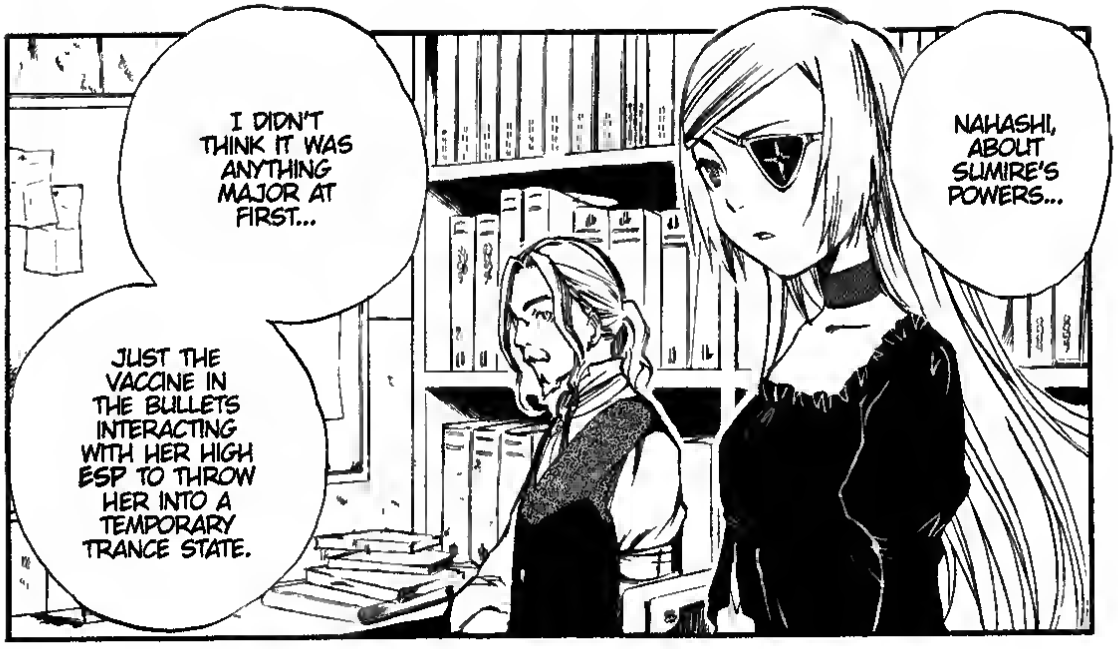
IS WHAT CAUSED HER BERSERKER FIT.



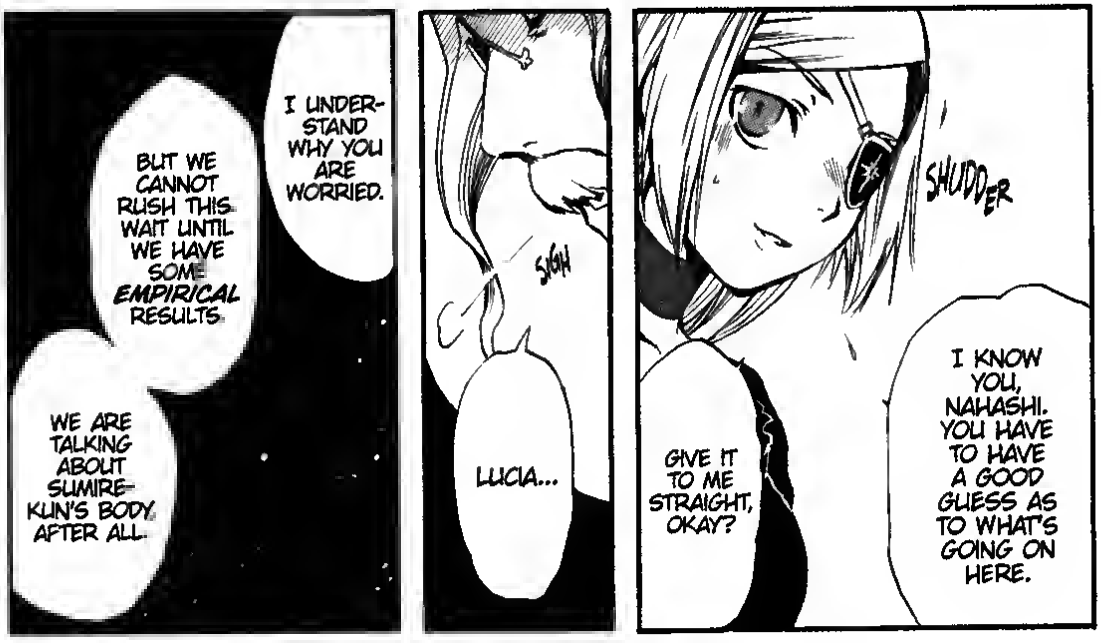
BEFORE, IT WAS LUCIA'S SPECIAL BULLETS, WHICH ALSO CONTAIN THE VACCINE.

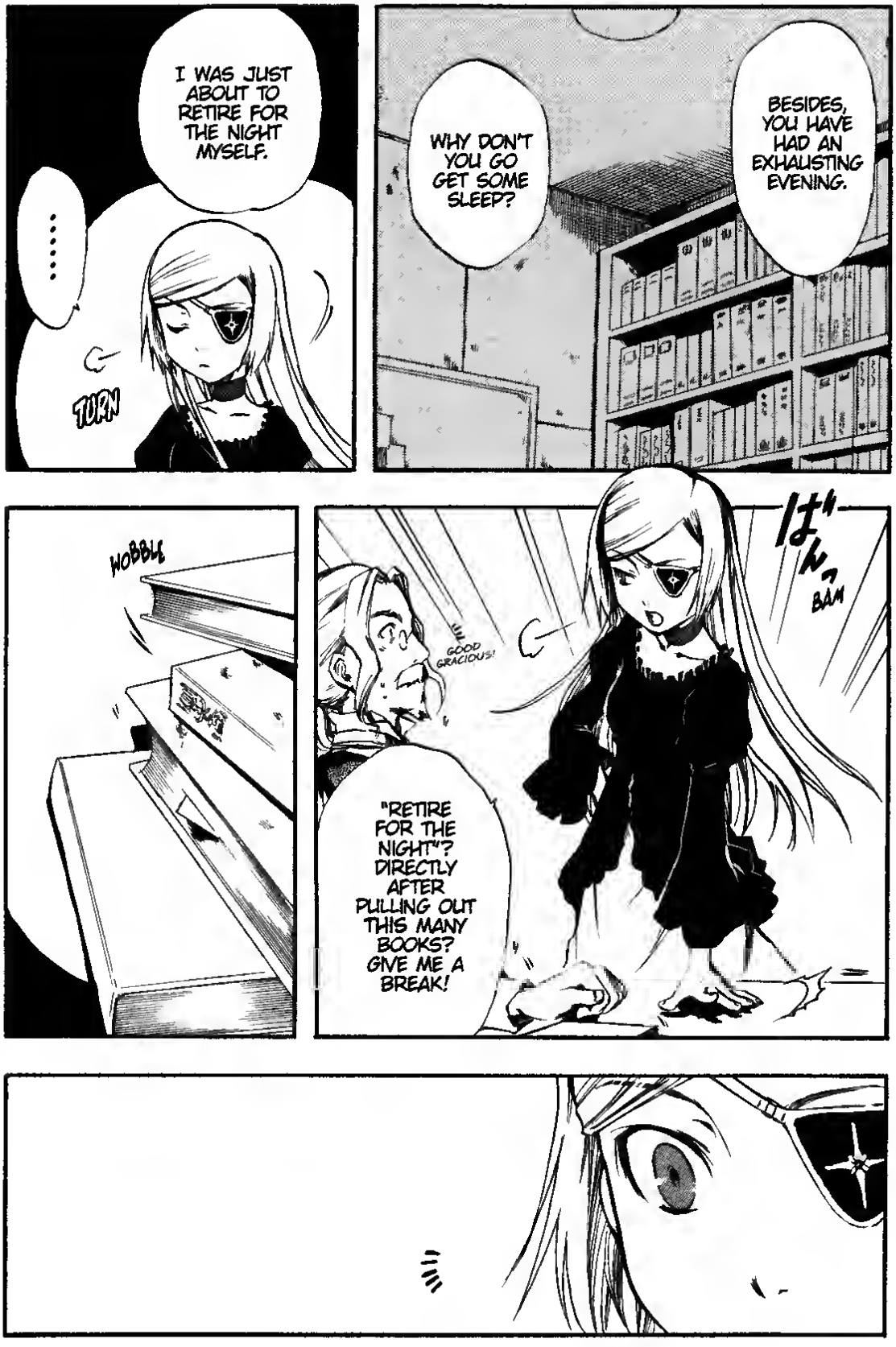
THUS, IN BOTH CASES, A VACCINE WAS THE TRIGGER.



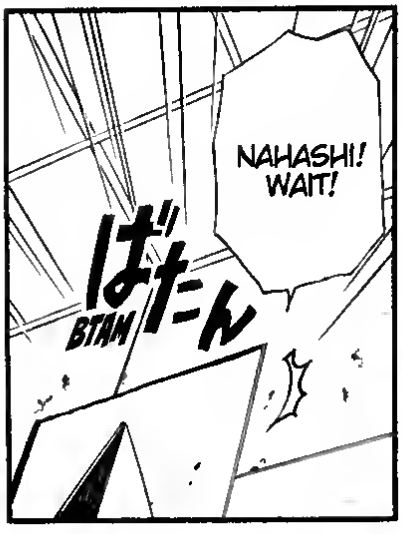

NAHASHI, ABOUT SUMIRE'S POWERS...
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS ANYTHING MAJOR AT FIRST...
JUST THE VACCINE IN THE BULLETS INTERACTING WITH HER HIGH ESP TO THROW HER INTO A TEMPORARY TRANCE STATE.

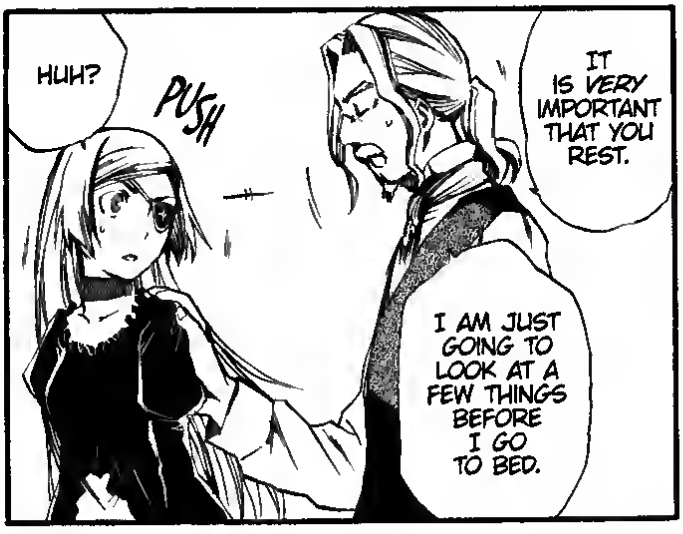
BUT HER BEHAVIOR IS *WAY* TOO MUCH LIKE THAT OF A REAL VIRUS. ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE ONE.
AND HER OWN WORDS MAKE IT CLEAR SHE WAS HUNTING SOMETHING *VERY* SPECIFIC.

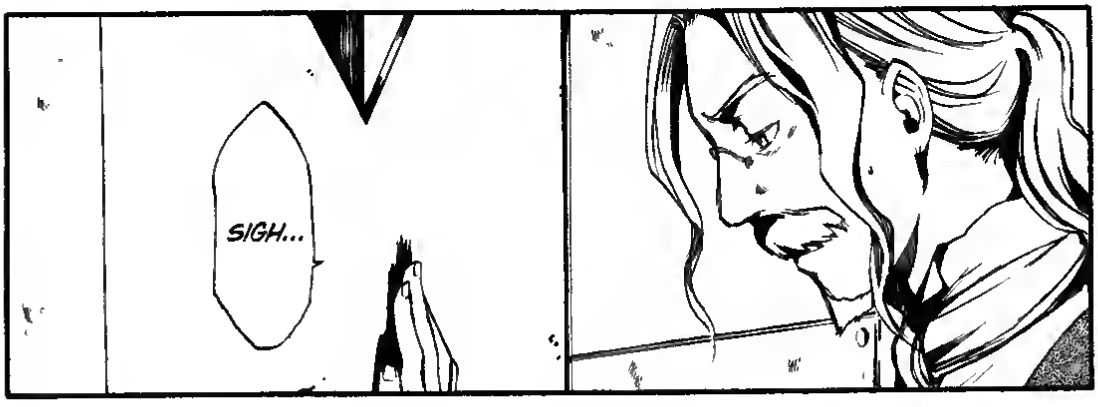

I KNOW YOU, NAHASHI. YOU HAVE TO HAVE A GOOD GUESS AS TO WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.
SHUDDER
GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT, OKAY?
SIGH
LUCIA...
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE WORRIED.
BUT WE CANNOT RUSH THIS. WAIT UNTIL WE HAVE SOME *EMPIRICAL* RESULTS.
WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SUMIRE-KUN'S BODY, AFTER ALL.


I WAS JUST ABOUT TO RETIRE FOR THE NIGHT MYSELF.
.....
TURN
WHY DON'T YOU GO GET SOME SLEEP?
BESIDES, YOU HAVE HAD AN EXHAUSTING EVENING.
WOBBLE
GOOD GRACIOUS!
"RETIRE FOR THE NIGHT"? DIRECTLY AFTER PULLING OUT THIS MANY BOOKS? GIVE ME A BREAK!
バン
BAM

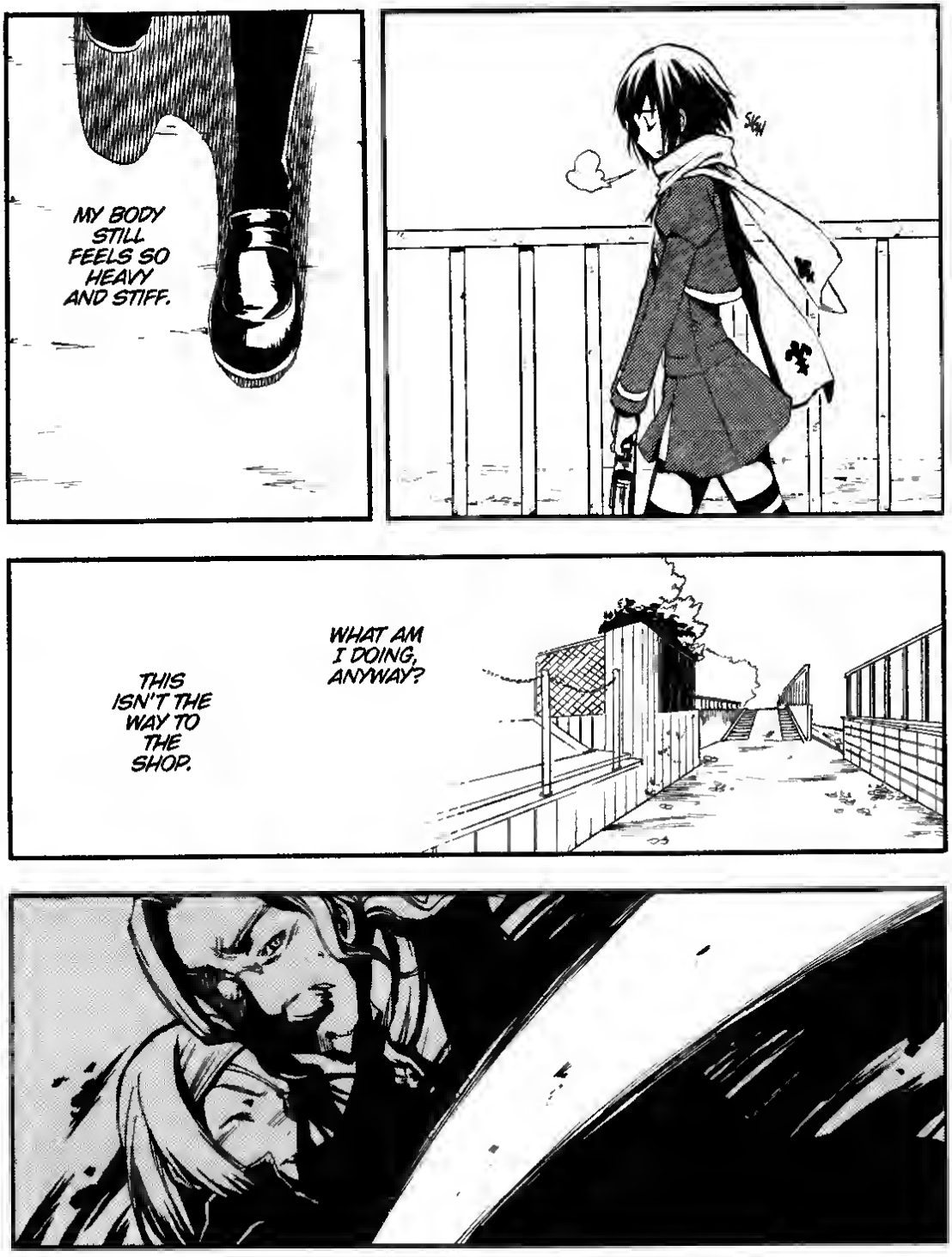
A PHOTO...?
I...
I MUST INSIST, LUCIA!
THUMP


NAHASHI! WAIT!
BTAM

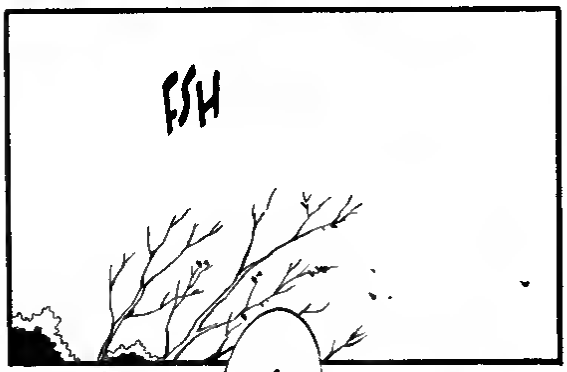

HUH?
PUSH
IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU REST.
I AM JUST GOING TO LOOK AT A FEW THINGS BEFORE I GO TO BED.


SIGH...

LUCIA, I'M SORRY.
BIIING
BOOONG
LATER!
BYE-BYE!
SEE YOU TOMORROW, SUMIRE!


MY BODY STILL FEELS SO HEAVY AND STIFF.
SIGH
THIS ISN'T THE WAY TO THE SHOP.
WHAT AM I DOING, ANYWAY?

I HURT THEM!
THEY'RE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO PROTECT ME, AND I TURN AROUND AND DO THAT TO THEM!
BOTH OF THEM TOLD ME TO FORGET ABOUT IT... BUT I JUST CAN'T!
I MEAN, I'M SUPPOSED TO BE LEARNING HOW TO HELP THEM, BUT INSTEAD, I'M JUST BECOMING MORE AND MORE OF A BURDEN.
I WAS MYSELF... BUT I WASN'T.
I SHOULD'VE BEEN SCARED...
POWER KEPT WELLING UP AND WOULDN'T STOP.
BUT SOME-WHERE IN A CORNER OF MY HEART...
THAT FEELING...



I FELT SO VERY, VERY GOOD.

OH WOW, WHAT A SWEET SCENT!
IT SMELLS A LITTLE LIKE OLIVE BLOSSOMS.
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY STILL BLOOMED AT THIS TIME OF YEAR.

.....

A PARK...? UP HERE?
AND IT'S ALMOST WINTER! HOW COME ALL THESE FLOWERS ARE BLOOMING?

EVERYTHING SMELLS SO NICE.
SNIFF
BUT... AAH...
IT FEELS LIKE ALL THOSE DOUBTS AND WORRIES I HAD A SECOND AGO...
ALL JUST GOT WASHED AWAY.
AAAH...
!
A SLIDE?
HEE HEE
IT'S BEEN AGES...

WAIT... DUH. I'M JUST BIGGER THAN I WAS THEN.
THMP
THMP
NENE-CHAN AND I USED TO GO TO THE PARK A LOT.
BACK WHEN WE WERE REALLY LITTLE...
WOW, IT'S SO TINY...!
BONK
OW!!
HA!
THIS THING REALLY IS TINY--

AH HA HA HA HA...
HA HA!
S-SORRY...

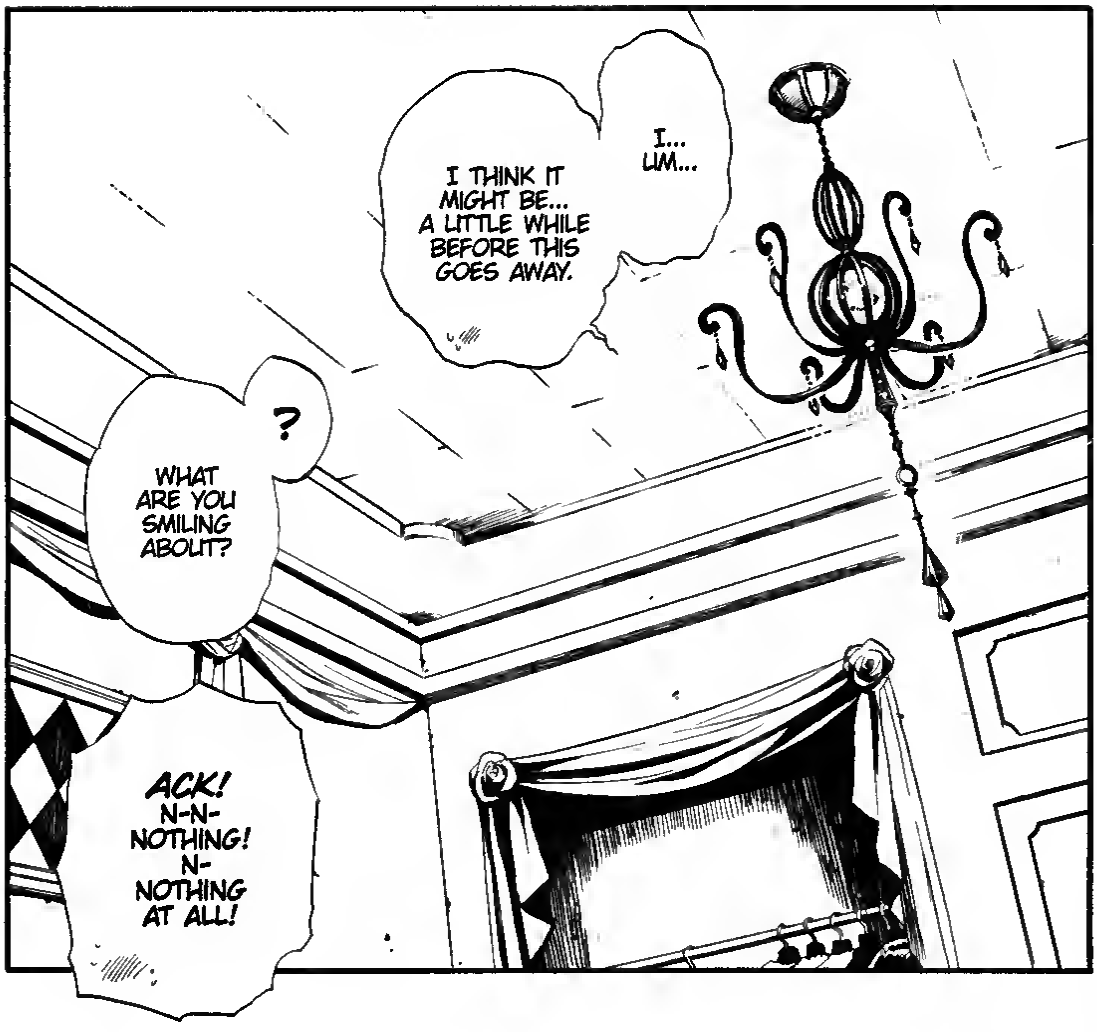
I DIDN'T MEAN TO LAUGH. IT'S JUST I DON'T OFTEN GET VISITORS UP HERE.
UH...?
FMP

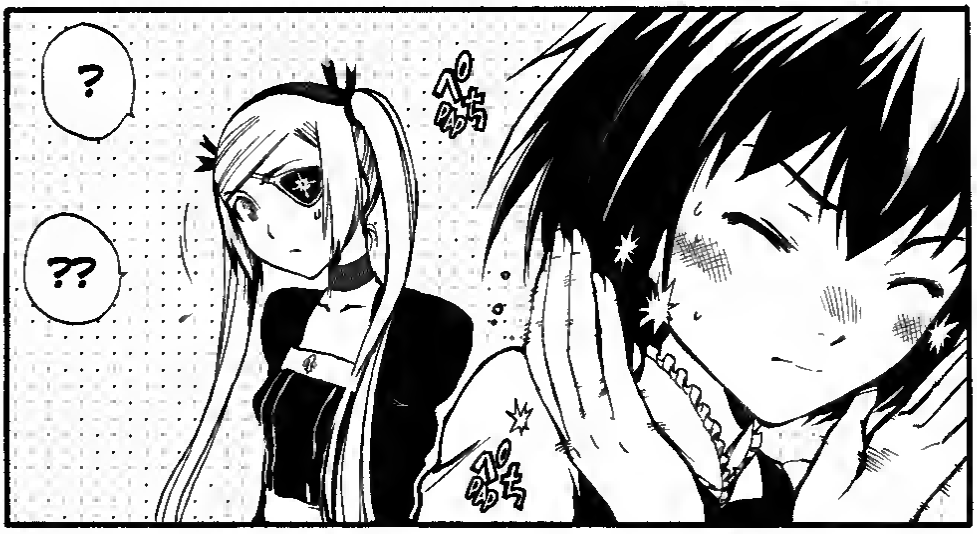
NICER... MUCH, MUCH NICER...

THAN THE SCENT OF ANY FLOWER.

I...
I'M BACK!
BAM
TMP
TMP
KCHIK
BTAM
?
WELCOME BACK. A LITTLE LATE, AREN'T YO--
SORRY! I'LL GET CHANGED RIGHT AWAY!!
OH.
THERE YOU ARE, SUMIRE.
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
BTAM
WHEW-
I'M SORRY I'M SO LATE, LUCIA-SAN.
UM... SUMIRE?
DID YOU LOOK IN A MIRROR?

I THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE PUT ON A LITTLE TOO MUCH BLUSH.
HUH?
OH! UH... THIS...?
I... UM... THAT IS... UHH...
MY CHEEKS WERE SO WARM...
I EVEN SURPRISED MYSELF.


I... UM...
I THINK IT MIGHT BE... A LITTLE WHILE BEFORE THIS GOES AWAY.
?
WHAT ARE YOU SMILING ABOUT?
ACK! N-N-NOTHING! N-NOTHING AT ALL!


?
??

Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard

A SCENT...
A STRONG SCENT...
GRAB
!!
WHA...?!

Piece 08: SOLID. DETERMINATION.

SQUEE
NGAA~!!
MIKA-CHA... C-CAN'T BREATHE...!!
THE SCENT OF MAN! I CAN SMELL IT ON YOU FROM ACROSS THE ROOM, SUMIRE!!
'FESS UP! SOMETHING HAPPENED, I KNOW IT!!
STINK
HEE HEE... IT'S OBVIOUS!
SNICKER
PAINFULLY OBVIOUS. SUMIRE, DO YOU REALIZE HOW WEIRD YOU'VE BEEN LATELY?
HAAH!
WH-WHAT MAKES YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT, MIKA-CHAN?!
10 MINUTES AGO
CLASS DISMISSED
BLING
BOOONG
DAZE...
15 MINUTES AGO
AND THIS IS THE IMPORTANT PART
DAZE...

5 MINUTES AGO
BIG SMILE
I DON'T CARE HOW YOU LOOK AT THAT...
YOU'VE GOT "I'M IN LOVE!" SCRAWLED ALL OVER YOUR FACE!!
BAM
DON'T FORGET, THIS IS ME WE'RE TALKING ABOUT! MIKA-SAMA IS NEVER WRONG WHEN IT COMES TO MEN!
HMPH!
EH-HEH-HEH
I-IT'S NOTHING, MIKA-CHAN, REALLY. I JUST... SPACED OUT A LITTLE, THAT'S ALL.
QUIT FAKING IT, GIRL. YOU'RE AS TRANSPARENT AS GLASS. NOW SPILL! WHO?! WHAT?! WHEN?! WHERE?!
I KNOW! IT'S THE SAME GUY WHO GAVE YOU THAT PENDANT BEFORE. RIGHT?
N-NO!
THIS IS SOMEONE COM-PLETELY DIFFER--
ACK!
OH REALLY?
THOUGHT SO! WHAT'S HIS NAME? WHAT'S HE LIKE?!

UM...
H-HIS NAME...
BLUSH
FIDGIT
IS YOSHIKI... SAN.
HE SAID HE GOES TO THE HIGH SCHOOL ONE TOWN OVER FROM HERE.
BIIING
BOOONG
HE'S A LITTLE STRANGE, I GUESS. I ALWAYS FIND HIM IN THIS LITTLE PARK...
HFF
HIDING AWAY AT THE TOP OF THE SLIDE READING A BOOK.
HFF
HMM...?
BUT...
SWF SWF
TMP

...HE HAS THE NICEST SMILE OF ANYONE I'VE EVER MET.
HERE ALREADY? YOU'RE EARLY TODAY, SUMIRE-CHAN.
Y-YEAH...
I-I FINISHED READING THE BOOK YOU LENT ME, AND I WANTED TO GET IT BACK TO YOU, AND... UM... ER...
FIDGIT FIDGIT
THANKS. BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SPRINT ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO GIVE IT BACK, YOU KNOW.
HA HA HA
Y-YES, I DID! I MEAN, I... I...
YES? YOU DID...?
AH!
TMP
BLUSH
I-I LIKED THE BOOK SO MUCH, I CAN'T WAIT TO READ THE NEXT VOLUME!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD TELL HIM THAT I JUST WANTED TO SEE HIM...
AS SOON AS I POSSIBLY COULD.

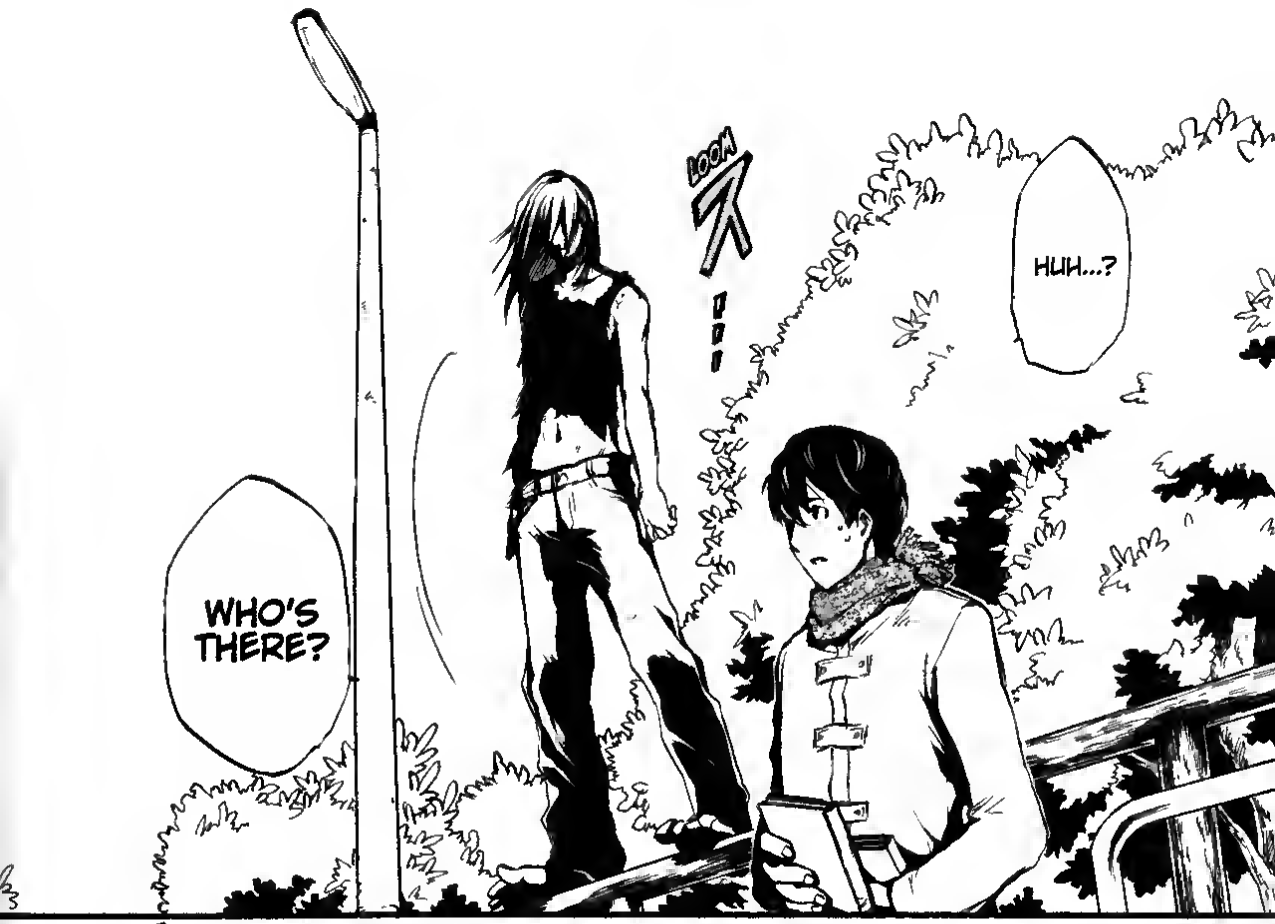
REALLY?
I'M GLAD YOU LIKED IT.
THANKS!
BTHMP
WELL, WHY DON'T I GO AHEAD AND LEND YOU THE REST OF THE SERIES, THEN?
TURN
SHVR
SHIVER

!!
SHF
CHK
?
SUMIRE-CHAN?
WH
OH!
UM... YOSHIKI-SAN?

I DON'T WANT HIM TO SEE ME USE THIS.
BUT I'VE GOT THEM ALL RIGHT HERE...
I'LL LURE IT SOMEWHERE ELSE, SOMEWHERE DESERTED, AND THEN I'LL KILL IT.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH "VISION," SO IT'LL COME AFTER ME.
IT'LL BE OKAY.
I JUST REMEMBERED THAT I... UH... HAVE LAUNDRY TO DO, SO I NEED TO GO HOME.
I'LL BORROW THE BOOKS SOME OTHER TIME.
SHFL

I'LL... I'LL SEE YOU LATER...
I DON'T WANT HIM TO WATCH ME FIGHT.

BUT SUMIRE-CHAN...
TMP


WHO'S THERE?
LOOM
HUH...?

SNEER
!!
YOU CAN SEE THEM TOO?!
THEN IT MIGHT GO AFTER HIM INSTEAD OF ME!!

UM...
REACH
WHA...?
STAY AWAY FROM HIM!!
BLAM
A GUN...?
SUMIRE-CHAN...?!
PULL
?!
ZING

PLEASE HOLD ONTO THIS, AND DON'T LET GO!
HUH?!
TOSS
SNAP
GRAB
THP
THP
THUMP
HEH HEH HEH
SUMIRE-CHAN, WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?!
IT'S OKAY, YOSHIKI-SAN.
GLARE

I WON'T LET IT LAY ONE FINGER ON YOU!
OH... WILL YOU NOW?
HEH HEH... YOU SMELL QUITE TASTY YOURSELF, GIRL.
I BET YOU'LL TASTE FAR BETTER THAN HE WOULD.

GRRRRAAAAAAAARGH!!
FLASH
THAT LITTLE TOY YOU HAVE WO--
?
SHIR
WHA--?!

WHAT A NAUGHTY BOY.
FZZZZZ
TRYING TO STEAL MY PRIZE RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER ME? HOW RUDE!
BATHUMP
KRAK
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WEAKLINGS LIKE YOU DON'T REMEMBER THEIR MANNERS AROUND THEIR BETTERS.
CRUMBLE
BATHUMP

CRUNCH
BESIDES, STEALING IS JUST TERRIBLY RUDE IN THE FIRST PLACE. DON'T YOU AGREE...
TAKAHANA SUMIRE-SAN? ♥
SHE'S A VIRUS?!
H-HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
OR COULD SHE BE SOME-THING ELSE ...?!
WHO ARE YOU?!

WHO AM I?
THE NAME MY LADY GAVE ME IS "RUKA."
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU. ♥
?!
EEP!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, SUMIRE-CHAN!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN FIGHT THAT!
LIGHTNING ?!
KYAAAAAA!!
BOOM

I'LL STAY BEHIND AND STOP HER!
YOSHIKI-SAN, PLEASE RUN!
WHAT?!
SUMIRE-CHAN, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!

AND NOW YOU KNOW WHO I AM! ♥
HEE HEE ♡
IF I GOT HIT BY THAT...!!!

LOCK AIM
I HAVE TO DEFEAT HER...
AND QUICKLY TOO!!
GRIP
BLAM
KRAK
?!
HP...

RRRG!
BZZT
LAUGH
22K
22K
IS THAT ALL?
TP
WHAT?!

SIGH
!
THM
THM
SHIT
SONOKA-SAMA SEEMED SO VERY INTERESTED IN YOU...
SO I EXPECTED YOU TO BE QUITE THE AMUSING HUMAN.
BUT YOU'RE SO NOT. ☆
THIS IS PRETTY DAMN BORING, YOU KNOW THAT? ❤

BUT... IF I TRIED TO USE MY OWN POWERS...
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT COULD HAPPEN!!
RRG...
SHE'S TOO POWERFUL!!
STILL...
GLANCE
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
HMM?
KINDA STUPID OF ME, ISN'T IT? WORRYING ABOUT THAT IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT...
HEH
KNOWING THAT, I DON'T HAVE TO SHOW YOSHIKI-SAN THAT SIDE OF ME IS STRANGELY COMFORTING.

GRIN
IT'S A SECRET.
SMF
TMP
IF SHE CAN ZAP MY BULLETS RIGHT OUT OF THE AIR...
?

...THEN I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO SHOOT FROM A CLOSER RANGE!
BLAM
HEE HEE HEE. STUPID LITTLE HUMANS ARE SO CUTE.
NAB
BUT YOU KNOW, THE CUTER SOMETHING IS...
?!
WSH

YEEK!
THE MORE I FEEL LIKE... PLAYING WITH IT.
YOSHIKI-SAN... I'M SORRY...
I COULDN'T PROTECT YOU.
FADE...
RUN!!
PLEASE... RUN...
FOUND YOU.

THE ONE
AND ONLY...
"KEY"...

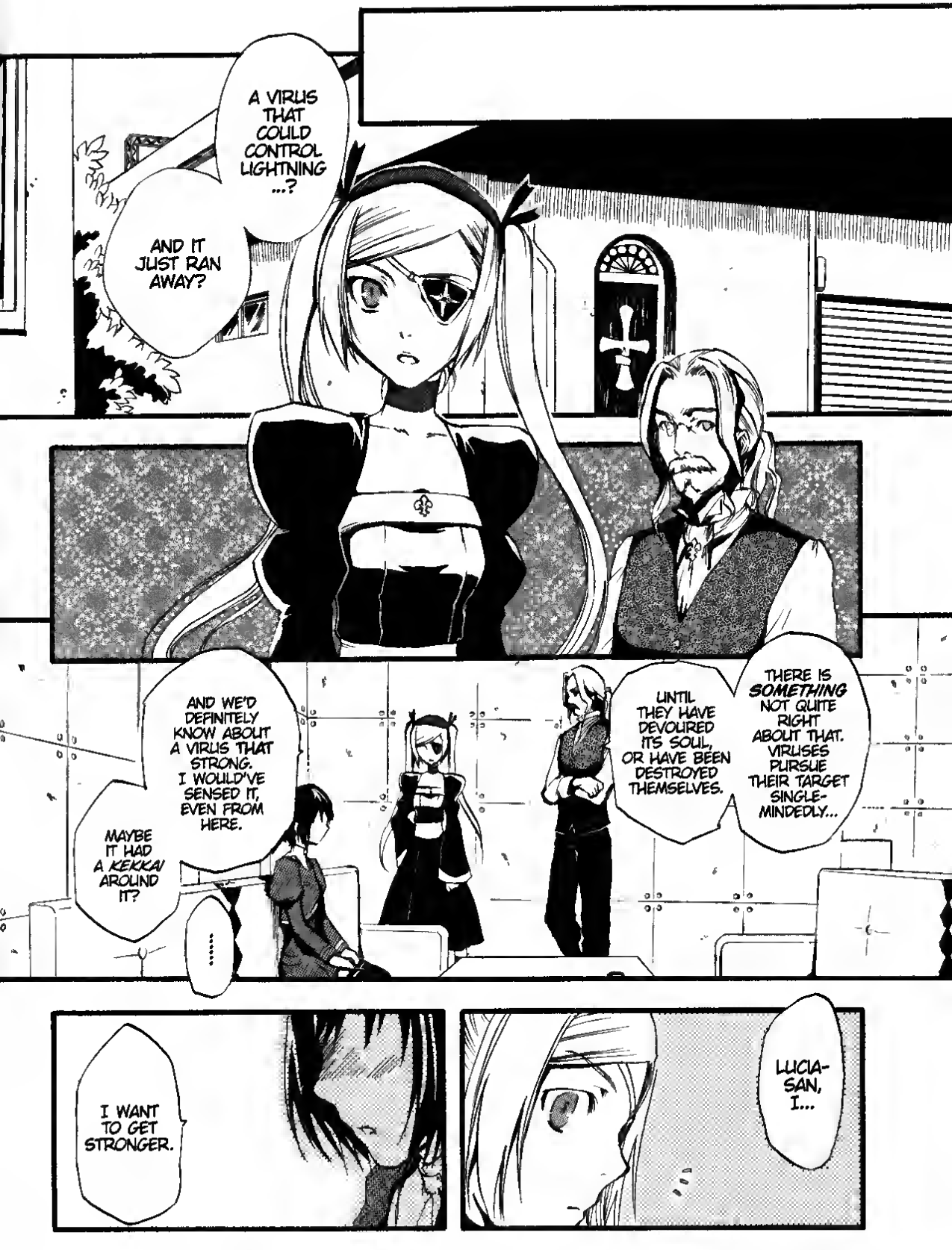
YOSHIKI-SAN, RUN!!
FWUMP
!
SUMIRE-CHAN, YOU'RE AWAKE! I'M SO GL--
?!
Y-Y-Y-Y-YOSHIKI-SAN!!
UM, SUMIRE-CHAN? COULD YOU CALM DOWN?
HUH ?!?!
OH!
S-SORRY. WHERE AM I...?
MY PLACE.
I COULDN'T GET YOU TO WAKE UP, AND I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU LYING AROUND OUTSIDE LIKE THAT.
THIS WAS THE ONLY PLACE I COULD THINK OF. SORRY.

OH YEAH! THE FIGHT!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? SHE DIDN'T HURT YOU, DID SHE?!
NO, I'M FINE.
THAT WEIRD GIRL LEFT RIGHT AFTER SHE KNOCKED YOU OUT.
SHE DID? OH...

ANYWAY, I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY.
AND... I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP YOU.

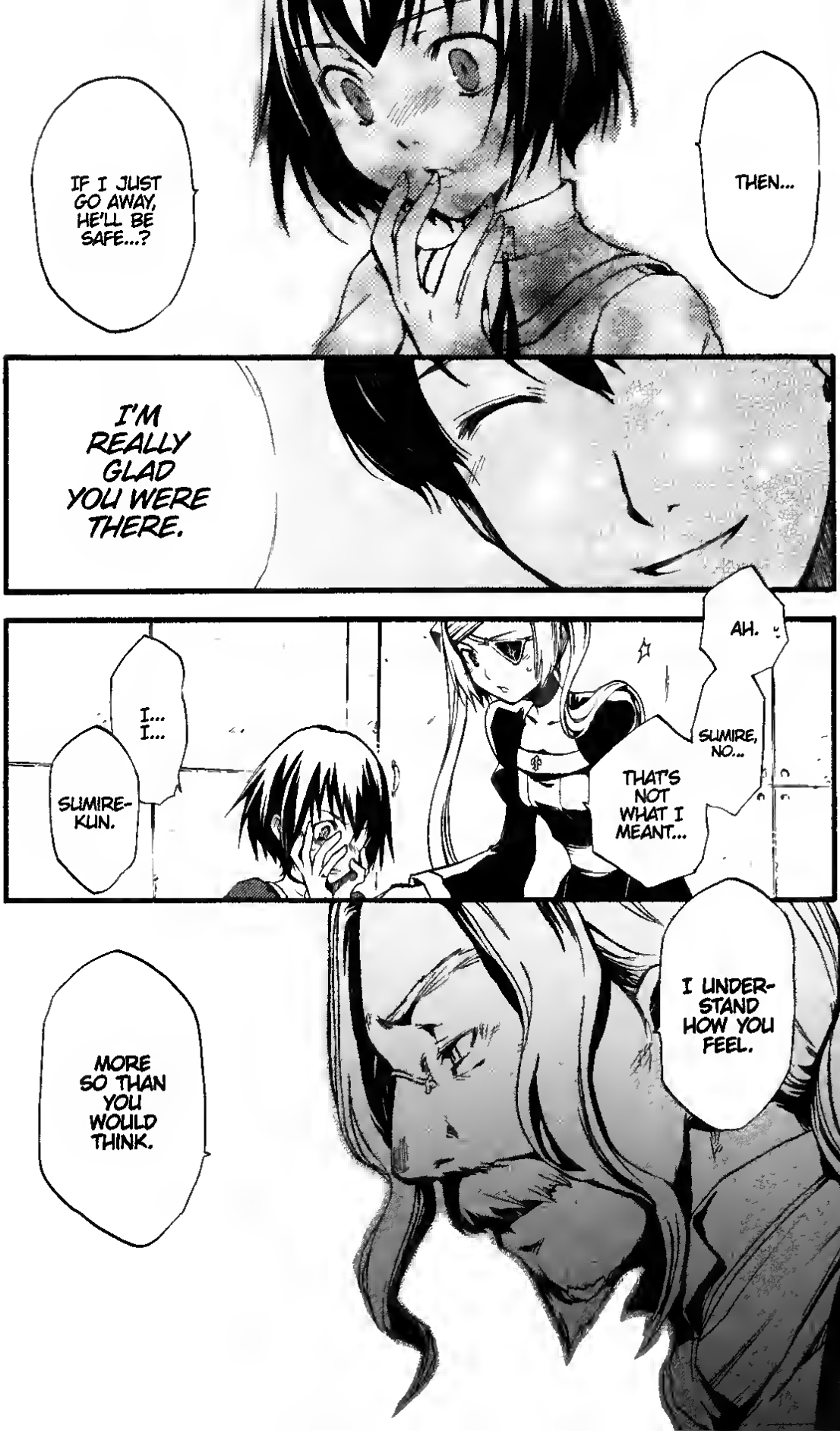
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED...
BUT I DO KNOW THAT IF YOU WEREN'T THERE TO SAVE ME, I COULD'VE BEEN IN SOME SERIOUS TROUBLE.

I'M REALLY GLAD YOU WERE THERE.
THANKS, SUMIRE-CHAN.
SO WONDERFUL...
I COULD HAPPILY SACRIFICE ANYTHING I HAVE.
I THINK THAT... IF IT MEANS PROTECTING HIM AND HIS WONDERFUL SMILE...
I- IT WAS NO-THING ...
I... I...
RRRR...
ANY-THING.
!!
LUCIA-SAN HAS TO BE WORRIED!!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!! I'M WAY LATE!

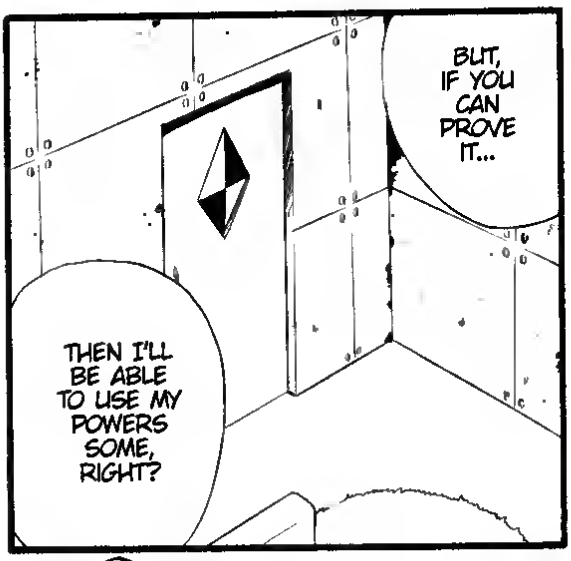

A VIRUS THAT COULD CONTROL LIGHTNING ...?
AND IT JUST RAN AWAY?
THERE IS SOMETHING NOT QUITE RIGHT ABOUT THAT. VIRUSES PURSUE THEIR TARGET SINGLE-MINDEDLY...
UNTIL THEY HAVE DEVOURED ITS SOUL, OR HAVE BEEN DESTROYED THEMSELVES.
AND WE'D DEFINITELY KNOW ABOUT A VIRUS THAT STRONG. I WOULD'VE SENSED IT, EVEN FROM HERE.
MAYBE IT HAD A KEKKAI AROUND IT?
.....
LUCIA-SAN, I...
I WANT TO GET STRONGER.

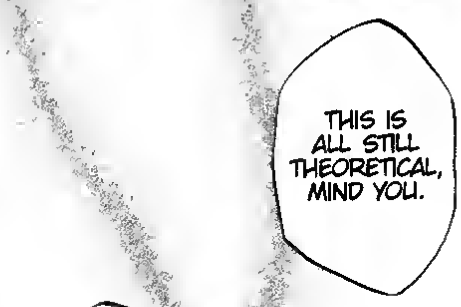
I HAD THOUGHT I WAS AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT STRONGER THAN I USED TO BE...
SHG
BUT I THINK THAT'S BECAUSE THERE WAS A PART OF ME... A WEAK PART OF ME...
THAT ALWAYS EXPECTED YOU TO COME AND SAVE ME IN THE END.
NOW I KNOW THAT, BY MYSELF, I REALLY HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.
I WAS THINKING...
THAT IF I COULD CONTROL MY POWERS, EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT...
THEN MAYBE I COULD DO BETTER ON MY OWN IN A FIGHT.
SUMIRE...
LET ME TELL YOU ONE THING RIGHT OFF.

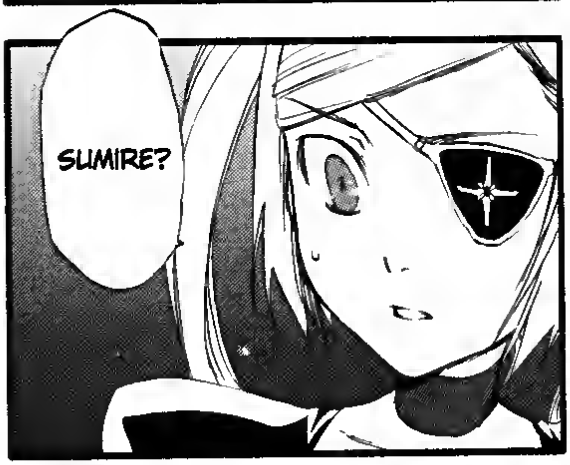
VIRUSES ARE ATTRACTED TO YOU FAR MORE READILY THAN ANY OTHER PERSON WITH "VISION."
WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY "WHY" YET, BUT ONE THING IS CLEAR...
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO PUT YOUR FRIEND IN DANGER LIKE THAT AGAIN...
THE BEST THING IS FOR YOU TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FR--
LUCIA!
THEN... IT'S MY FAULT?
I DRAW VIRUSES TO ME, SO IT'S MY FAULT THAT YOSHIKI-SAN WAS ATTACKED?


IF I JUST GO AWAY, HE'LL BE SAFE...?
THEN...
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU WERE THERE.
AH.
SUMIRE, NO...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
I... I...
SUMIRE-KUN.
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.
MORE SO THAN YOU WOULD THINK.

I HAVE MANAGED TO DEFINE ONE FACTOR THAT COULD POSSIBLY BE TRIGGERING YOUR CHANGES.
GIVEN THE TWO CASES IN WHICH YOU DISPLAYED YOUR POWERS...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...


BUT, IF YOU CAN PROVE IT...
THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO USE MY POWERS SOME, RIGHT?


THIS IS ALL STILL THEORETICAL, MIND YOU.
I DO NOT YET HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO VERIFY IT EITHER WAY.

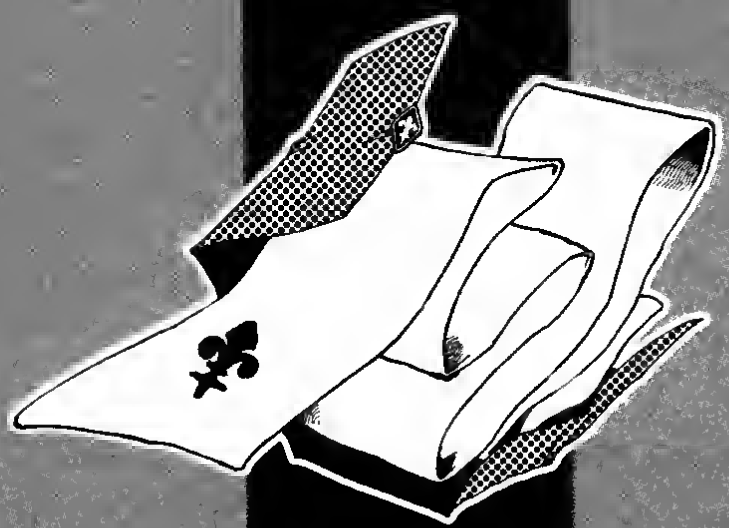

SUMIRE?

I...

"I WANT TO GET STRONGER." HA...
I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND IF YOU WISH TO DECLINE. IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO TRY LATER---
I WILL NOT FORCE YOU. YOU MUST MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION.
SUMIRE-KUN, YOU NEED TO BE THE EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECT FOR THIS.
NO.
TNK
THAT DESIRE ITSELF COULD BE NOTHING MORE THAN SELFISHNESS ON MY PART.
BUT...
FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO STAY BY YOSHIKI-SAN'S SIDE...
IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES...
I'M READY NOW.

Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard



Piece 09: BLACK. VISION.

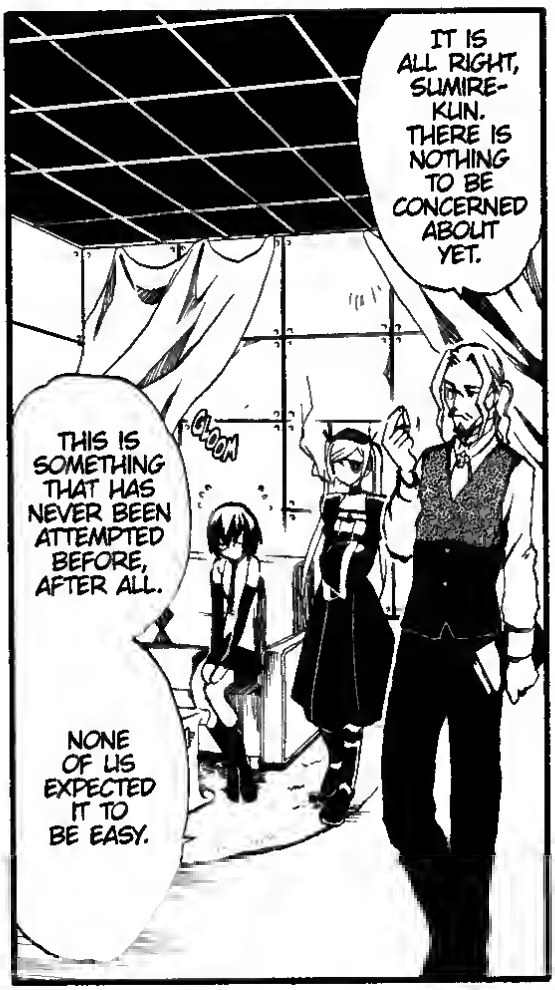
KLINK
SLUMP
BLINK

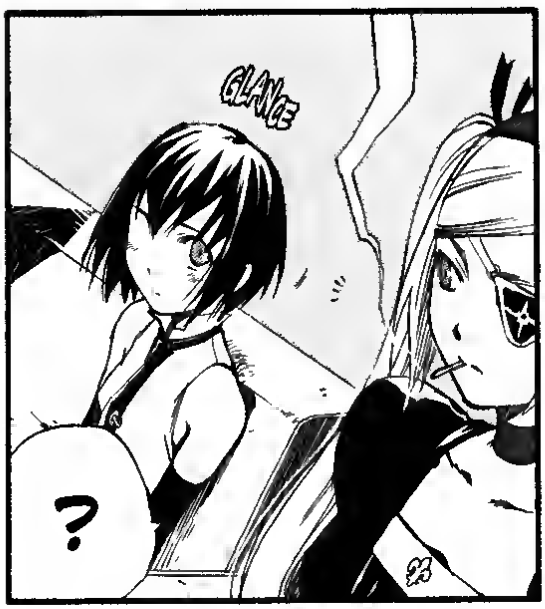
!
FWUSHH
S...!!
TWITCH
HH
WSH

KYA HA HA HA HA!
GIOW
KRRMM
?!
I
ANOTHER FAILURE...
SLUMP

I'M GLAD WE PUT UP A PROTECTIVE KEKKAI AND ALL, BUT STILL...
THD
HAVING TO STAND HERE, WATCHING SUMIRE TRY TO ATTACK ME TIME AFTER TIME IS HARDLY PLEASANT.
AND I BET IT'S FAR WORSE FOR HER.
SIGH
NH...
POOR THING.
FAR, FAR WORSE.
SIGH

BLACK SEEPS IN,
STAINING EVERYTHING I SEE.


IT IS ALL RIGHT, SUMIRE-KUN. THERE IS NOTHING TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT YET.
GLOOM
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT HAS NEVER BEEN ATTEMPTED BEFORE, AFTER ALL.
NONE OF US EXPECTED IT TO BE EASY.

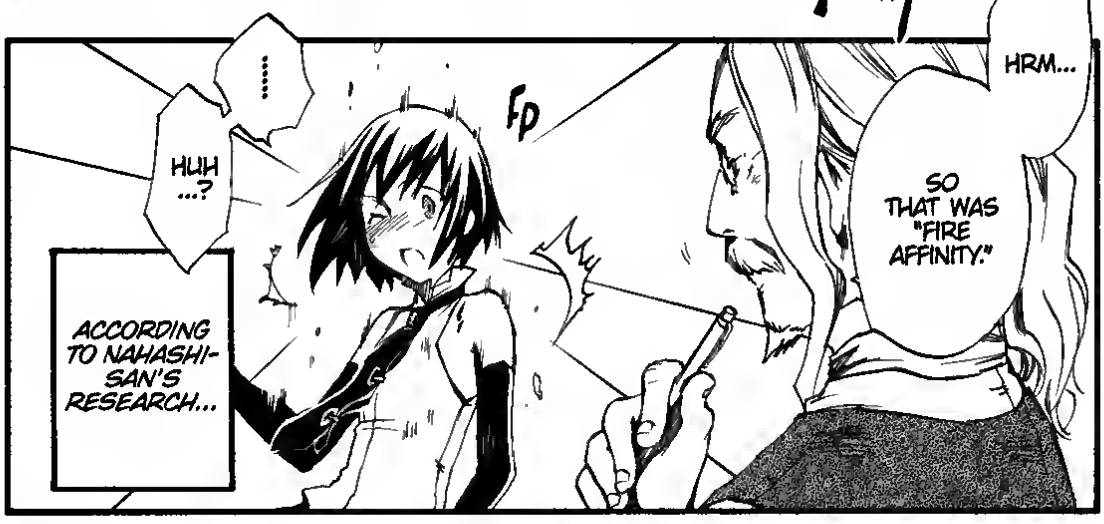


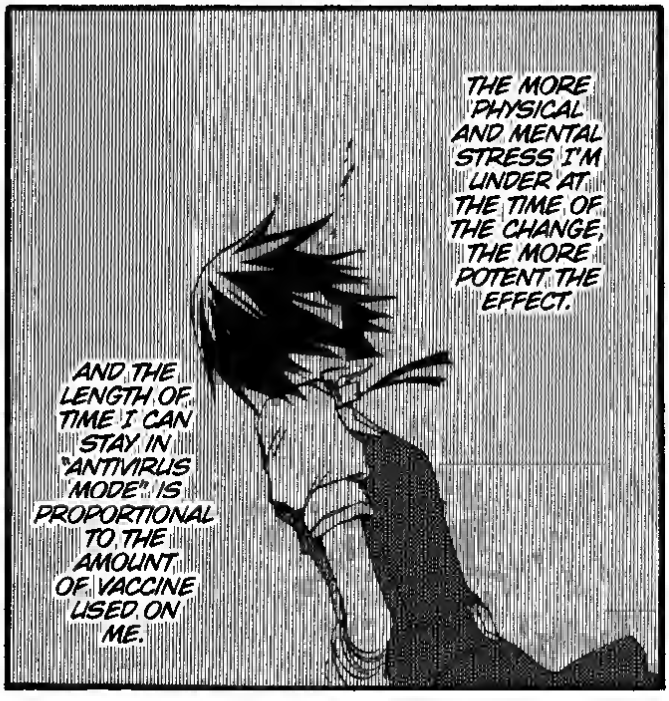
THEN A SCENT GRABS MY ATTENTION,
PULLING AT ME.

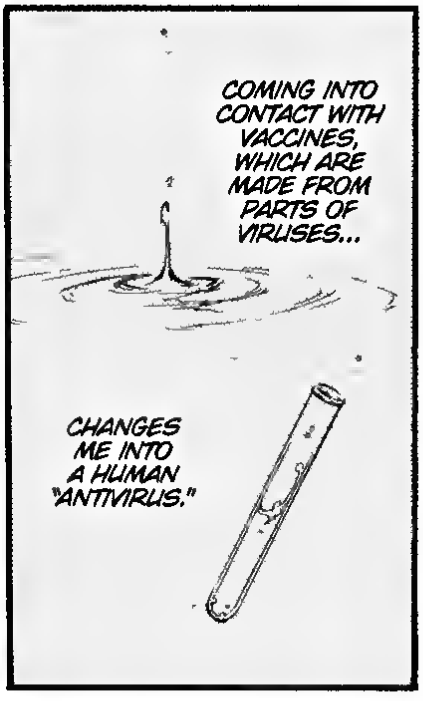
BEGGING ME TO...
THE ONLY BRILLIANT THING IN A WORLD DEVOID OF COLOR, THE SOURCE OF THE SCENT CALLS TO ME...
BREAK ME!
AND NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I CAN'T SEEM TO STOP IT.
MY ENTIRE WORLD BEGINS TO REVOLVE AROUND THOSE TWO WORDS...
THIS POWER OF MINE IS SUPPOSED TO BE GEARED TOWARDS FIGHTING VIRUSES...
N-NO!
AH!
I'M FINE! THANKS...
GETTING TIRED, SUMIRE?

...SO WHY DOES IT KEEP REACTING SO STRONGLY TO LUCIA-SAN?
--KUN ...
SUMIRE-KUN?
!
OH! AH... YES?
I HAVE A THEORY ABOUT THE VACCINE "AFFINITY" THAT I WOULD LIKE TO TEST. DO YOU MIND?
I HAVE DILUTED THIS BATCH TO 20% OF NORMAL POTENCY, SO ALL YOU NEED DO IS SPRAY A LITTLE ON YOURSELF.
ALL RIGHT...
PSHHH

オ
VNN
NNNN
オ
FWOOOSH
!!!
オ


HRM...
SO THAT WAS "FIRE AFFINITY."
FP
.....
HUH ...?
ACCORDING TO NAHASHI-SAN'S RESEARCH...


THE MORE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STRESS I'M UNDER AT THE TIME OF THE CHANGE, THE MORE POTENT THE EFFECT.
AND THE LENGTH OF TIME I CAN STAY IN "ANTIVIRUS MODE" IS PROPORTIONAL TO THE AMOUNT OF VACCINE USED ON ME.


COMING INTO CONTACT WITH VACCINES, WHICH ARE MADE FROM PARTS OF VIRUSES...
CHANGES ME INTO A HUMAN "ANTIVIRUS."

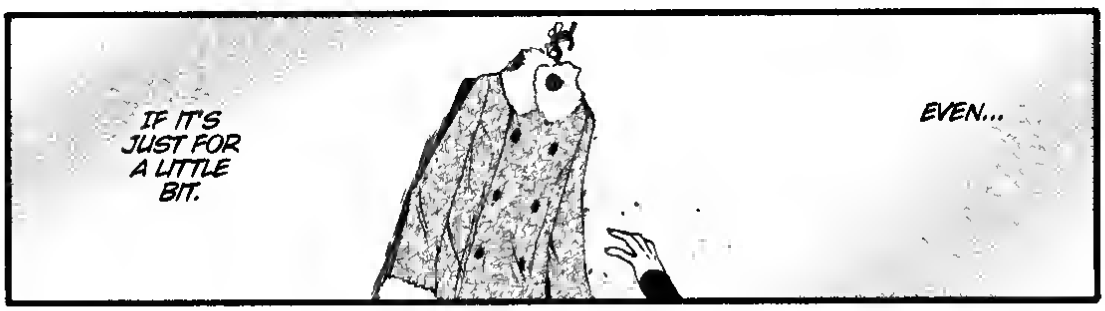
GLOW
TOUCH
SINCE WE'RE JUST STARTING, NAHASHI-SAN DOESN'T WANT TO STRESS MY BODY TOO MUCH...
SO WE'RE ONLY USING VERY TINY AMOUNTS OF VACCINE.
ACCORDINGLY, THE VACCINES MADE FROM THEM, AS WELL AS MY OWN POWERS, WILL FOLLOW THOSE AFFINITIES.
HERE, SUMIRE-KUN.
HIGHER LEVEL VIRUSES THAT CAN MAINTAIN NEARLY PERFECT HUMAN FORMS ALL HAVE ONE OF FOUR DIFFERENT ELEMENTAL AFFINITIES.
WATER...
THESE ARE THE SIGILS FOR FIRE...
AND EARTH.
WIND...

WILL MORPH INTO THE FORM CORRESPONDING TO THE ELEMENTAL AFFINITY OF THE VACCINE TO WHICH YOU ARE EXPOSED.
THE SIGIL ON YOUR COLLARBONE...
?!
PLEASE COMMIT THEM TO MEMORY.
IT MUST BE LATE AFTERNOON BY NOW.
I WONDER IF YOSHIKI-SAN IS STILL AT THE PARK...
GLANCE
YOU MUST BE QUITE TIRED BY NOW. YOU NEED YOUR REST.
WELL THEN, LET US CALL IT A DAY, SHALL WE?
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
YES, SIR...

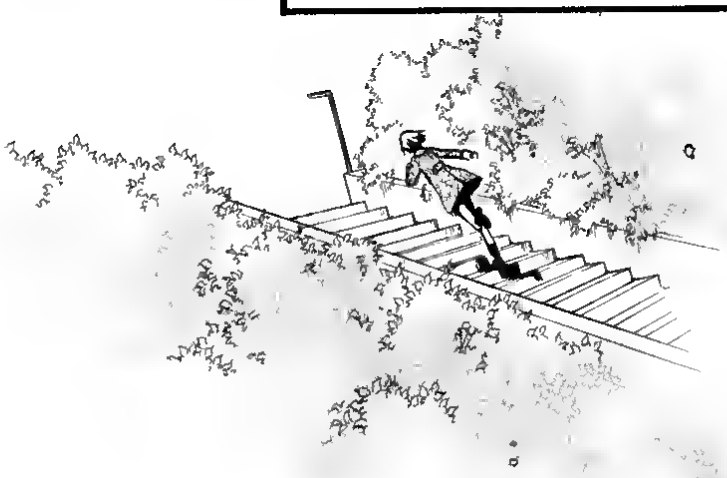
I SWORE I WOULDN'T GO AND SEE HIM UNTIL I MANAGED TO GET THESE CRAZY POWERS UNDER CONTROL!
GOING WOULD JUST PUT HIM IN DANGER!
SHAKE ろん
SHAKE ろん
NO! NO NO NO!
I MADE A PROMISE TO MYSELF WHEN I STARTED THESE EXPERIMENTS!

I WANT TO SEE HIM.

BUT...
BUT...


IF IT'S JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT.
EVEN...

YOU KNOW, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...



THE DAY I FIRST FOUND THIS PARK.
I WAS REALLY DEPRESSED THAT DAY TOO...
HE MADE ALL MY WORRIES AND DOUBTS DISAPPEAR...
BUT...
JUST...
LIKE MAGIC.

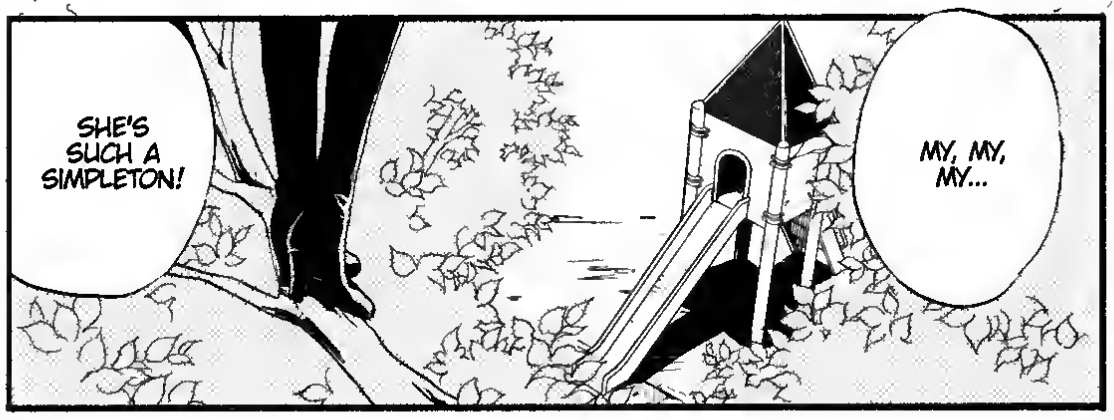
KYA!!
POKE
HERE.
YOU LOOK DOWN, SUMIRE-CHAN.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THE... MESS A WHILE AGO.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN? ARE YOU OKAY?
OH... IT'S WARM!
THANK YOU!
UM...
THERE'S THIS... THING I'M TRYING, AND IT'S NOT GOING TOO WELL.
I JUST FELT SO... RELAXED ALL OF A SUDDEN. I'M FINE.
N-NO, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT... I...
HUH?!
OH MY GOD, I'M SORRY!
ACK!!-NOW-WHAT-DO-I-DO?!

IT GROSSES YOU OUT, DOESN'T IT...?
I KNEW IT...
GLOOM
AH! NO, NO! I... UM...
EXPERI-MENTS?
I DIDN'T THINK A GIRL LIKE YOU...
WOULD BE FORCED INTO FIGHTING CRAZY MONSTERS LIKE THAT.
AREN'T YOU SCARED?
I'M A LITTLE...
SUR-PRISED. THAT'S ALL.
.....
YES...
VERY.
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO GET STRONG AS FAST AS I COULD.
OH NO...
I CAN'T..
I THOUGHT THAT IF I GOT STRONG, I WOULDN'T BE AFRAID ANYMORE.
BUT...

I'M AFRAID OF MY OWN POWER! I TOLD MYSELF I COULD DO THIS...
I SWORE I WOULD! BUT I'M TOO SCARED!
I'M SO FRUSTRATED AND MAD AT MYSELF! I... I...!
I CAN'T STOP THE TEARS...!
I'M SORRY...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU LISTEN TO ME WHINE, I--
SUMIRE-CHAN.
PAT
I'M PROBABLY NOT THE BEST OF CHOICES...
BUT I'LL BE THERE IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO.
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO HOLD IT ALL IN LIKE THAT...
'KAY?

I WISH THERE WAS MORE I COULD DO.
AH!
NO! NO!
THAT'S PLENTY. I MEAN, JUST HEARING YOU SAY THAT...
I KNEW IT.
MAKES ME FEEL SO MUCH BETTER. THANK YOU!

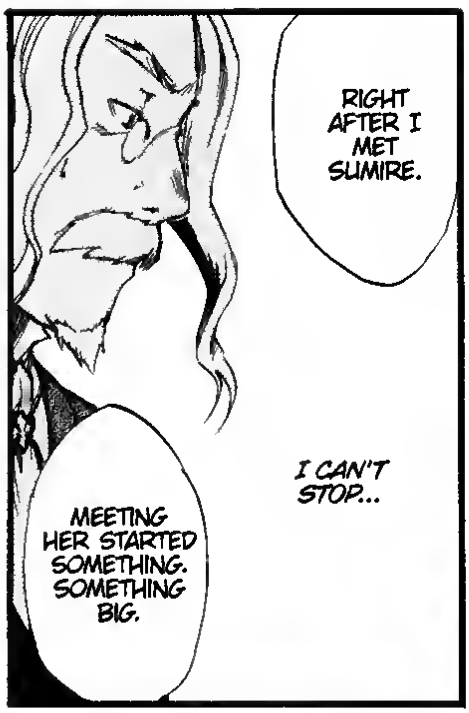
HE'S JUST LIKE A MAGICIAN.



HOW CUTE!
I SO WANT TO MAKE HER CRY NOW.
RUSTLE
MAY I, SONOKA-SAMA?

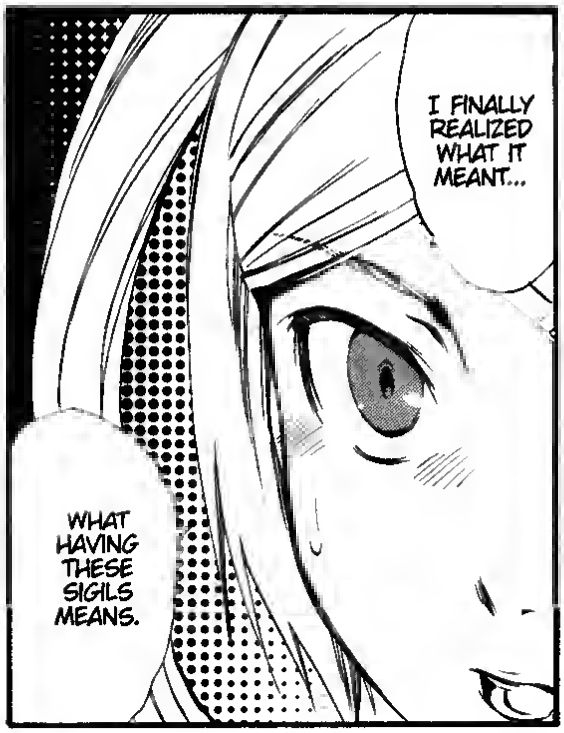
CAN'T...
STOP SHAKING...
WHAT'S THERE TO BE SO AFRAID OF?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, GIRL? PULL IT TOGETHER!
FIZZ
NAHASHI...
BTAM
YOURSELF?
HUH?
WHERE IS SUMIRE-KUN? HAS SHE GONE OUT?
HM?
TWITCH
OH... Y-YEAH. I THINK SO.
OR...
I NEED YOU TO LOOK AT SOME-THING.

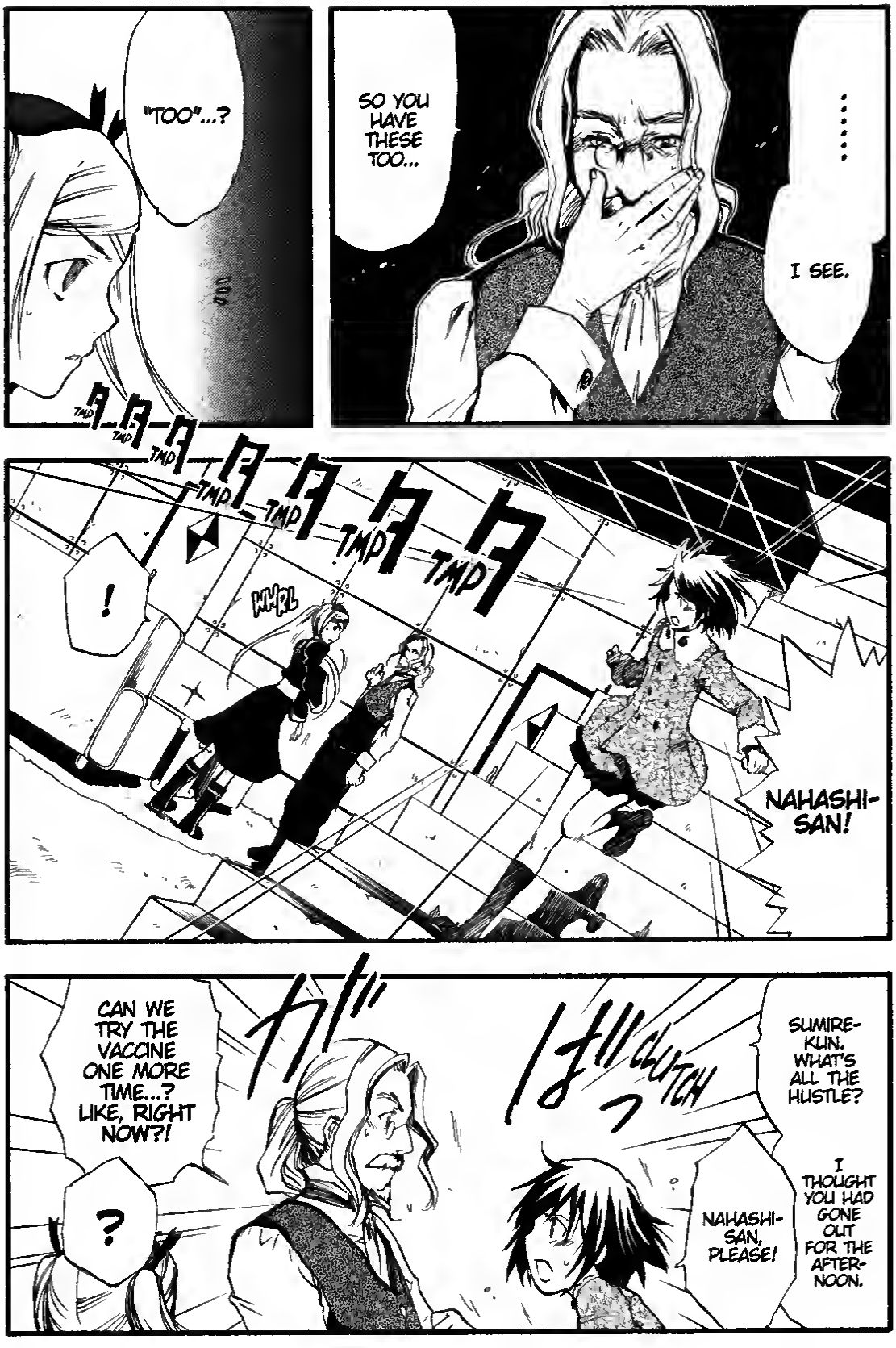
!!
WHAT ON EARTH?!
LUCIA...
WHEN DID YOU GET THOSE SIGILS?!



I'VE HAD THEM FOR A LONG TIME, BUT THEY DIDN'T USED TO BE THIS DARK.
THEY USED TO BE FAINT YELLOW, NOT THIS DEEP GOLD. THEY ONLY CHANGED RECENTLY...
CRAP... I CAN'T...

WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING TO ME?




"TOO"...?
SO YOU HAVE THESE TOO...
.....
I SEE.
TMD
!
NAHASHI-SAN!
CAN WE TRY THE VACCINE ONE MORE TIME...? LIKE, RIGHT NOW?!
?
CLUTCH
SUMIRE-KUN. WHAT'S ALL THE HUSTLE?
I THOUGHT YOU HAD GONE OUT FOR THE AFTER-NOON.
NAHASHI-SAN, PLEASE!

I CAN'T MAKE ANY PROGRESS IF I'M TOO BUSY BEING SCARED.
RUSTLE
NOW?
BUT YOU MUST BE TIRED AFTER YOUR EARLIER ORDEALS. I WILL NOT LET YOU EXHAUST YOURSELF!
I'LL BE FINE.
!
AS YOU WISH...
BLINK
3
2
1
AND I WILL ADMINISTER A SMALL SHOCK TO YOU.
ON MY MARK, YOU WILL APPLY THE VACCINE...
ALL RIGHT, THEN.

PSSSHT
LLLAAP
TINK
BLACK...

EVERY-THING'S BLACK.
THE ONLY COLOR IS A SCENT... A BEAUTIFUL SCENT...
WALLS...
FLOOR...
PEOPLE...
BREAK ME!
BA-THUMP
BREAK YOU...?
REALLY?
BREAK ME!!
DO YOU REALLY WANT ME TO BREAK YOU? ARE YOU SURE...?

LUCIA-SAN?
HUH?! WAIT...
NN...?
OH YEAH!
THAT'S LUCIA-SAN!
I DON'T WANT TO BREAK HER!
!!
SHE'S NOT GOING WILD!
SUMIRE ?!

LU...
WOBBLE
LUCI... L... L...
?!
NO. WAIT. THAT'S "LIGHT." NASTY, FILTHY LIGHT...
LIGHT THAT WILL LEAD THIS WORLD INTO DARKNESS.
NNGK!
HURRY... HAVE TO...
YES... HAVE TO...
BREAK IT!
BREAK HER!!!
SHING
SUMIRE...
GLEAM!!
ANOTHER FAILURE? A PITY. SHE WAS SO CLOSE THIS TIME.
!!
HERE SHE COMES, LUCIA. STEP BACK.

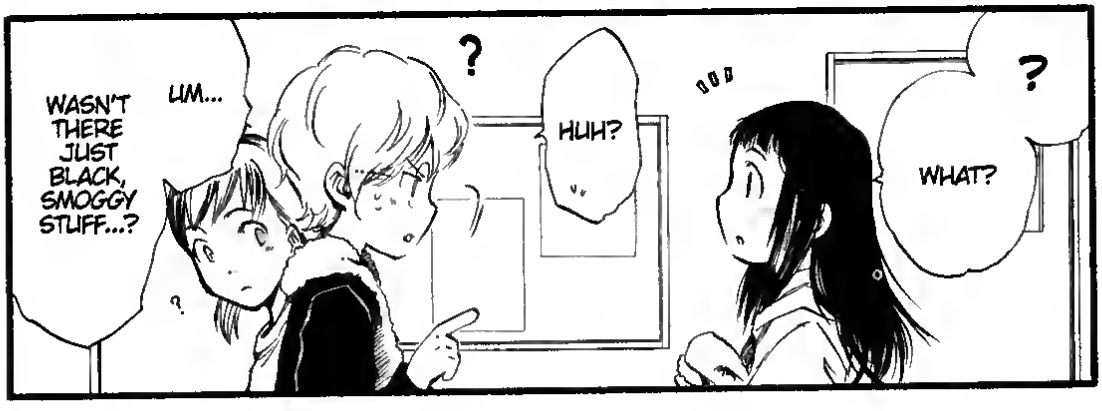
KICK
KSH
THUD
?!
LUCIA, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!
BREAKING THE KEKKAI IN THESE CONDITIONS IS UTTER FOLLY!
SLURP

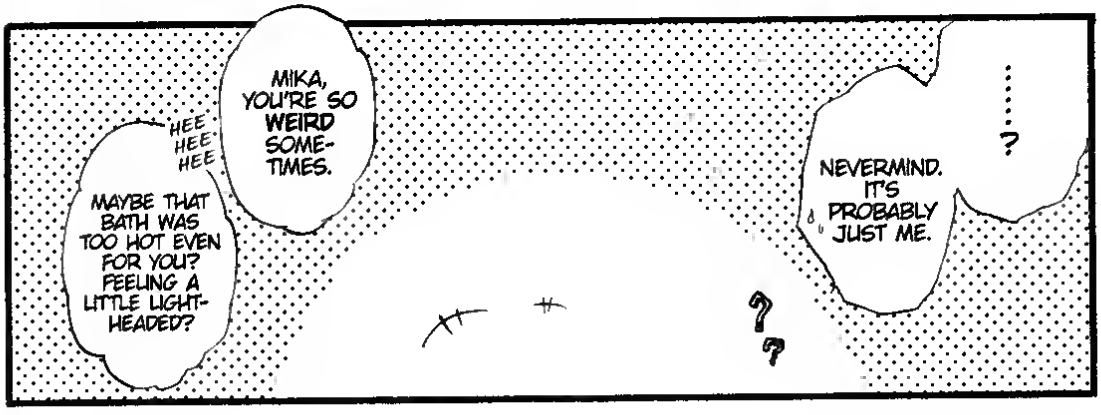
IF WE'RE TOO SCARED.
THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD MAKE ANY PROGRESS...
MUTTER
YOU WERE RIGHT.
TM
TM
TM
TM
ALL RIGHT, SUMIRE...
BRING IT!

I'M RIGHT HERE!!

AAAAH!
THAT BATH FELT SO GOOD! THE WATER WAS NICE AND HOT. ♪
HEE HEE! MIKA, YOU SOUND MORE AND MORE LIKE AN OLD CODGER EVERY DAY.
YEAH, SHE DOES!
YEAH, YEAH. WHATEVER. GOD, I'M BORED.
STRETCH
EVER SINCE SUMIRE MOVED OUT, I HAVEN'T HAD ANYBODY I CAN TEASE IN THE BATH!
MAKE THAT A LECHEROUS OLD CODGER.

BLORP
HEY!
ENOUGH OF THAT "CODGER" STUFF ALREADY!
KYOKO...?

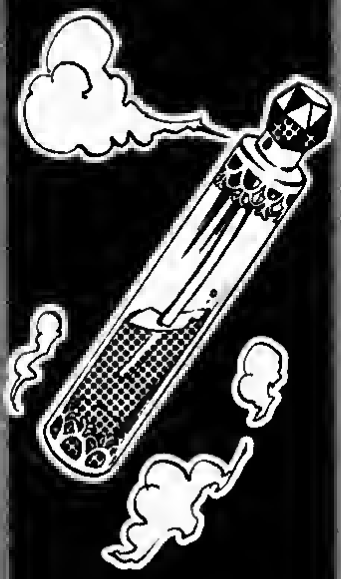

WASN'T THERE JUST BLACK, SMOGGY STUFF...?
UM...
HUH?
WHAT?


MIKA, YOU'RE SO WEIRD SOME-TIMES.
HEE HEE HEE
MAYBE THAT BATH WAS TOO HOT EVEN FOR YOU? FEELING A LITTLE LIGHT-HEADED?
NEVERMIND. IT'S PROBABLY JUST ME.

SO DO YOU WANT TO SNEAK OUT TO A MINI-MART THEN?
OOH! I LIKE THAT IDEA! ♥
GOD!
DUH! GO OUTSIDE NOW AND WE'LL CATCH COLD BEFORE WE CAN EVEN GET ANY ICE CREAM!
HMMM...
THAT'S POSSIBLE. QUITE POSSIBLE.
BUT I KNOW THE BEST WAY TO COOL DOWN. ICE CREAM!!
CHOCOLATE CHIP!
OH YEAH! YOU'RE RIGHT!
HEE
HEE..

Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard



PIECE 10: WHITE VISION.

BREAK HER!
LUCIA!!

WSH
MUST I LOSE YOU AS WELL?!
NO!

SLUMP
NGK...
PLIP
PLIP
HFF...
HFF...
I'LL BE VERY...
I PROMISE.
HEE HEE...
IT'S OKAY. DON'T WORRY.

VERY CAREFUL WHEN I BREAK YOU.
SHF
IT'S ME, SUMIRE...
HFF
LOOK AT ME.
LUCIA! GET BACK!!
NO! NAHASHI, I'M FINE!
HFF

LOOK ME IN THE EYE.
NNH ...?!
BREAK HER!!
SHUDDER
SQUEEZE
?!

MPH ...?!
URRR ...
.....?!
FWOOOOOOOOOOO
PLEASE... SOME-BODY... BREAK IT!
HUH ?!

WHAT AM I SEEING?
IS THIS COMING FROM THAT GIRL?
SHE'S CREEPY...
LUCIA-CHAN ALWAYS TELLS WEIRD LIES...
SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY PARENTS EITHER, RIGHT?
WHAT'S UP WITH HER LEFT EYE? IT'S FREAKY...
SHE'S CURSED.
I'M SCARED!!!
IT'S ALL POURING INTO MY HEAD...
I'M SCARED...
ARE THESE HER MEMORIES? AM I READING HER MIND?

WHO'S THERE...?!
SOMEBODY HELP ME!!!
ALL MY LEFT EYE SEES IS BLACK... ALL MY RIGHT EYE SEES IS THE WORLD...
BOTH OF THEM!!
SOMEBODY, PLEASE BREAK THEM!
OH... HELLO.
ARE YOU GOING TO BREAK THEM FOR ME?
"BREAK"...?
KRAK

I GET IT NOW.
AH...
WHAT I NEED TO BREAK...
SHIFF
LU...
ISN'T HER...

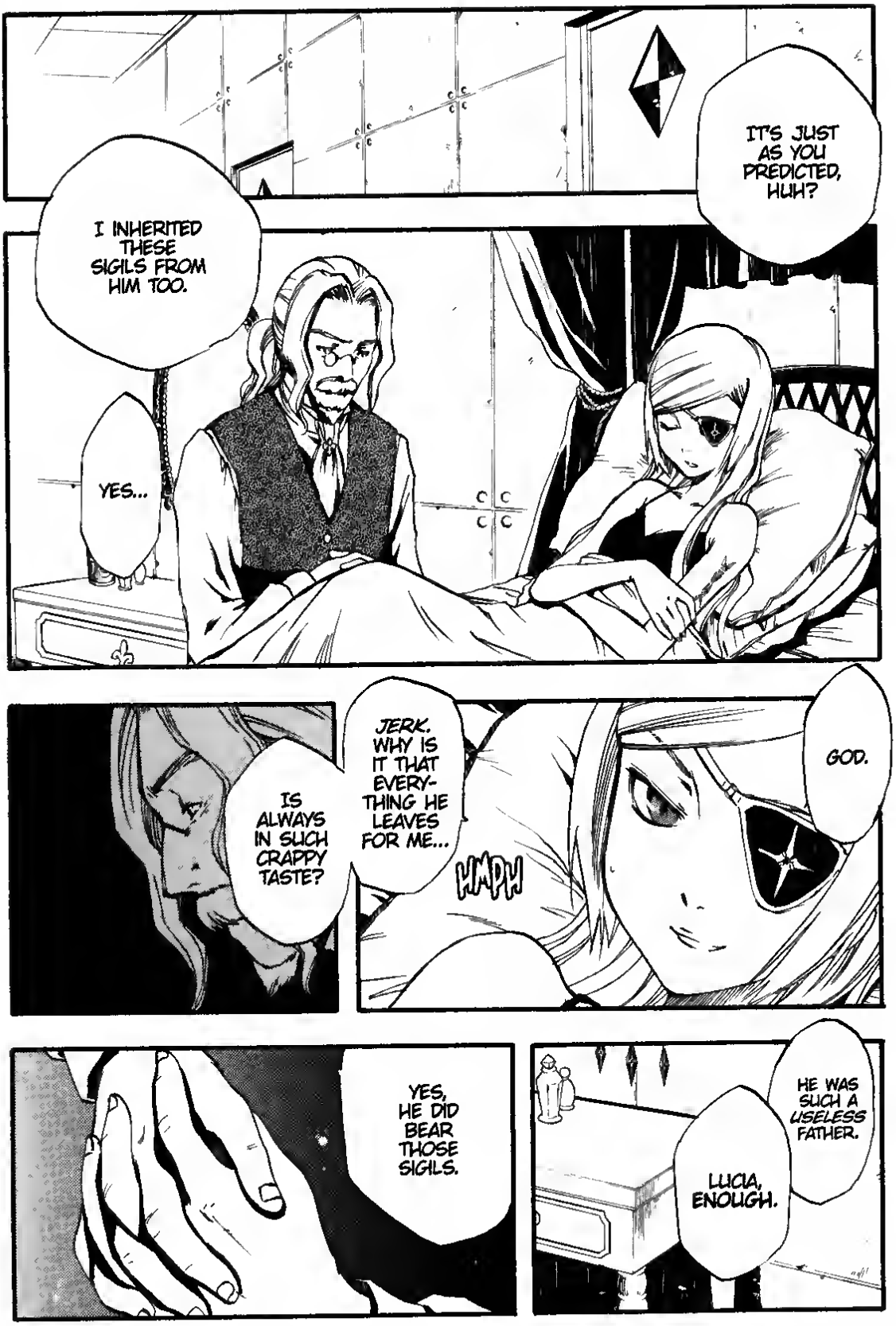
SUMIRE?
GOOD. I'M GLAD YOU--
LUCIA... SAN...?
IT'S THE DARKNESS THAT SURROUNDS HER.

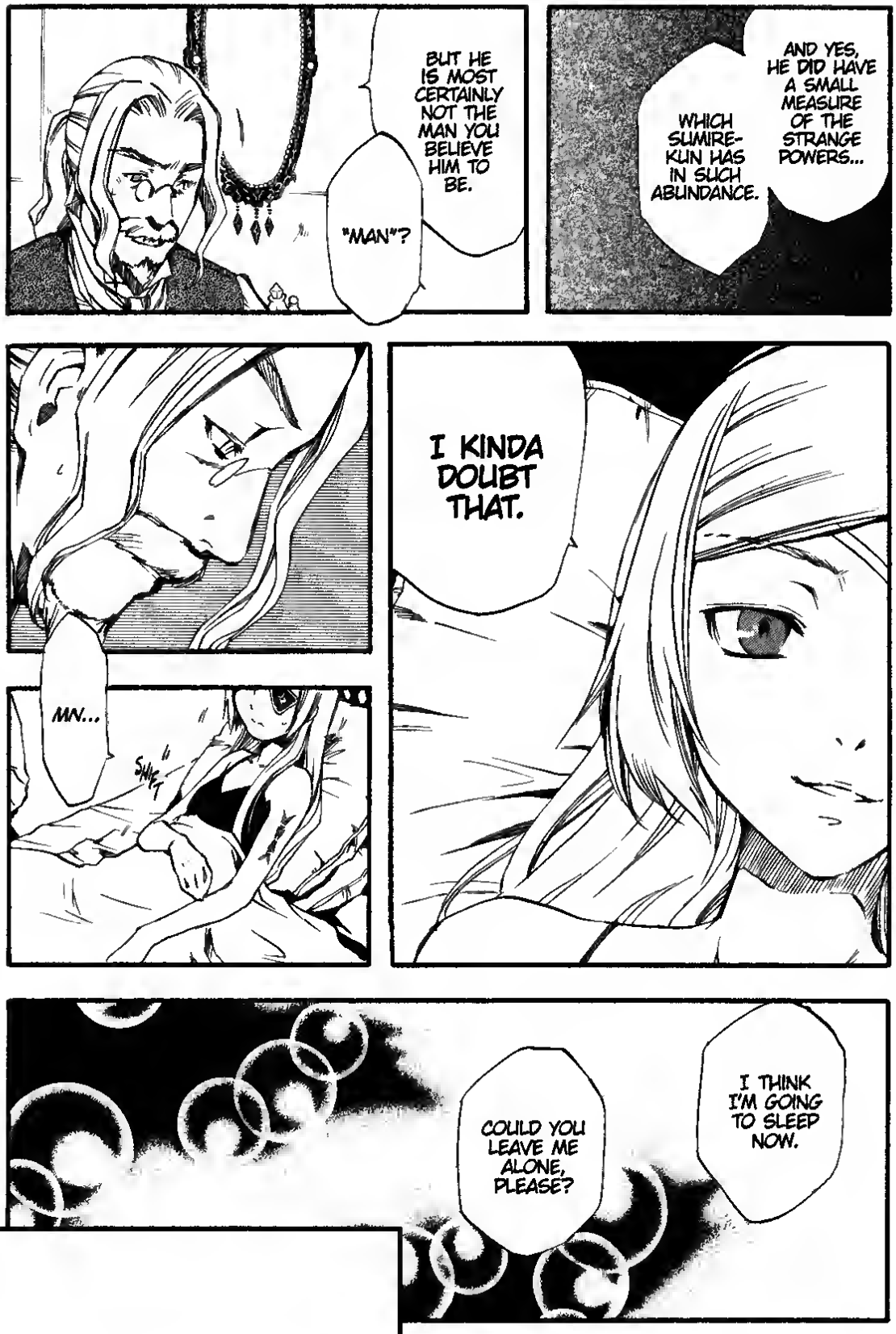
DRUG STO
HMM... LET'S SEE...
PAINKILLERS...
FRESH BANDAGES AND GAUZE...
?
?
MIGHT AS WELL GET SOME ANTISEPTIC TOO. I THINK WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF THAT...
GRAB
GRAB
WE'RE LUCKY HER WOUNDS AREN'T ANY WORSE THAN THEY ARE.
I NEVER KNEW LUCIA-SAN *DESPISED* HOSPITALS SO MUCH.
YEESH.

HM?
OKAY.
TIME TO HEAD HOME.
THANK YOU. COME AGAIN!
IS THAT...
YOSHIKI-SAN?
UH?
AH...!
YOSHIKI-SA--
KYA!
WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'LL GET TO SEE HIM TWICE TODAY!

WHA...?
BUT I COULD'VE SWORN THAT...
HE SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE ONE.
A CELL PHONE?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
HONK
IT'S JUST SOMEONE WHO LOOKS A LOT LIKE HIM. THAT'S GOTTA BE IT!
YEAH, THAT'S IT! IT'S NOT REALLY HIM.
IT... MIGHT NOT BE HIM.
HYUU

BECAUSE I REALIZED SOMETHING. SOMETHING PAINFUL.
BUT THEN...
WHY AM I RUNNING?
I HAVE NO CLUE WHEN HIS BIRTHDAY IS, WHAT HIS BLOOD TYPE IS, WHAT KIND OF FOODS HE LIKES...
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM.
NOTHING...
:HFF:
:HFF:
THOUGHT SO.
NOT ONE...
SINGLE THING.
:HFF:


IT'S JUST AS YOU PREDICTED, HUH?
I INHERITED THESE SIGILS FROM HIM TOO.
YES...
GOD.
JERK. WHY IS IT THAT EVERY-THING HE LEAVES FOR ME...
HMPH
IS ALWAYS IN SUCH CRAPPY TASTE?
YES, HE DID BEAR THOSE SIGILS.
HE WAS SUCH A USELESS FATHER.
LUCIA, ENOUGH.


BUT HE IS MOST CERTAINLY NOT THE MAN YOU BELIEVE HIM TO BE.
"MAN"?
AND YES, HE DID HAVE A SMALL MEASURE OF THE STRANGE POWERS...
WHICH SUMIRE-KUN HAS IN SUCH ABUNDANCE.
I KINDA DOUBT THAT.
MN...
SHIFT
I THINK I'M GOING TO SLEEP NOW.
COULD YOU LEAVE ME ALONE, PLEASE?

TOUCH
!...
CURSED CHILD!
BA-THUMP
?!

MY EYE...? NOT AGAIN!!
NPH ...!
ズキィ
STING
NO...!
カ!!
FWMP
ガ!!
FWMP
NO!!!
DARKNESS...

MY DARKNESS... DARKNESS FOR ME ALONE...
AH...
LUCIA-SAN?
?
KCHIK
THUD
TMP
TMP

OH, YOU'RE STILL AWAKE...
N-NO... NONONO ...
SHUDDER
SHUDDER

L--
LUCIA-SAN?!
KI
HA
THUMP
WHAT'S WRONG?! ARE YOU IN PAIN?! LUCIA-SAN!
OH MY GOSH
OH MY GOSH
?!
N... NO...
S... S...
SOME-BODY...

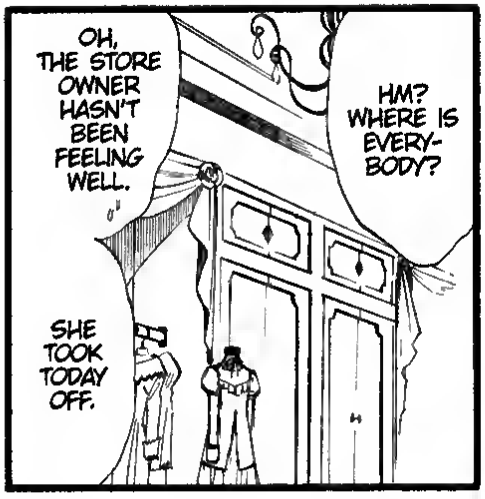
THIS ISN'T LIKE LUCIA-SAN, NOT AT ALL. SHE'S USUALLY SO STRONG AND CONFIDENT.
HANG IN THERE, LUCIA-SAN! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
THIS LUCIA-SAN IS FRAGILE, SMALL... ALMOST LIKE THAT LITTLE GIRL.
THE ONE I SAW IN THAT ILLUSION.
PLEASE ...
LUCIA-SAN?!

I
HUG
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
I'M RIGHT HERE.
IT'S OKAY.
M...
M...
SQUEEZE
SO... WARM...

MOTHER...

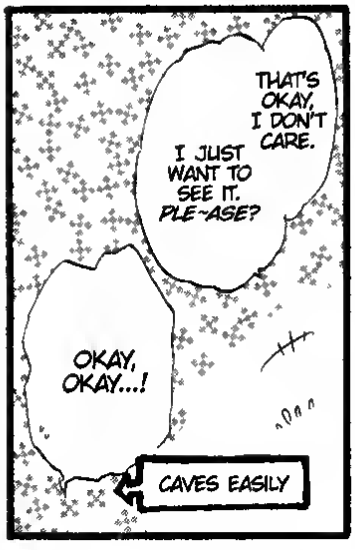
BIING
BOOONG
YES!! THE WEEK IS FINALLY OVER!
YAMMER
SEE YA!
YAMMER
KYOKO-CHAN DIDN'T COME TODAY, EITHER.
I HOPE SHE'S OKAY
YEAH. WELL, IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR, AFTER ALL.
PLUS, SHE DOESN'T WANT ANYBODY ELSE TO CATCH WHAT SHE'S GOT, SO VISITS ARE OUT TOO.
AND IF I WENT AND GOT SICK NOW...
LUCIA-SAN WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY GET IT ALSO. SHE'S WEAK ENOUGH NOW AS IT IS. SHE DOESN'T NEED TO BE GETTING SICK ON TOP OF THAT.
AH WELL.
SEE YOU MONDAY, THEN.
YEAH. BYE-BYE!
HUH...?

KYOKO-CHAN?
OH!
SUMIRE! WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
BUT... I HEARD YOU WERE SICK...
HUH?
OH... THAT. I GOT BETTER. HEY, ISN'T YOUR NEW PLACE SOME-WHERE AROUND HERE?
HUH?
UM... YEAH...
COOL! ♥ CAN I COME VISIT? TODAY?
WHAT?! NOW?! THAT'S KINDA SHORT NOTICE...
OH, COME ON. THERE'S LOTS OF CUTE DRESSES FOR SALE THERE, RIGHT?
I WANNA SEE THEM! ♥
Y-YEAH... BUT STILL, I--
I DIDN'T THINK KYOKO-CHAN COULD BE SO PUSHY...
O-OKAY...
PLE~ASE?
WOW.
I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED THERE WAS A STORE UNDER HERE.


HM? WHERE IS EVERY-BODY?
OH, THE STORE OWNER HASN'T BEEN FEELING WELL.
SHE TOOK TODAY OFF.

I'M HOME!
DANG IT... I CAVED IN...

WHOA!! KYOKO-CHAN, WAIT!! YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!
OH, OKAY. EXCUSE ME! HELLO?
KNOCK
STAFF


THAT'S OKAY, I DON'T CARE.
I JUST WANT TO SEE IT. PLE-ASE?
OKAY, OKAY...!
CAVES EASILY

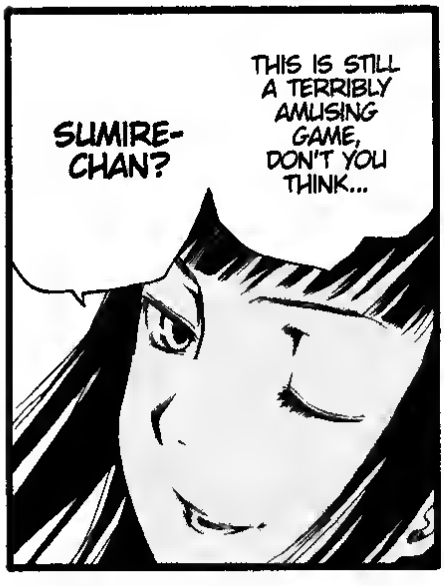
Y-YEAH... BUT I'M SHARING IT WITH SOMEBODY, AND YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO GO IN THERE RIGHT NOW. IT'S A WRECK!
WHY NOT? YOUR ROOM'S BACK THERE, RIGHT?

TWITCH
OKAY!
JUST LET ME CLEAN UP A FEW THINGS FIRST. I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE.
NAH... I'M IN THE MOOD FOR SOMETHING ELSE...
KSHK
WE HAVE JUICE AND SODA HERE, IF YOU WANT SOME.
I'M GONNA RUN TO THAT MINI-MART. BE RIGHT BACK.
HUH? WHY?
HEY, SUMIRE? I'M THIRSTY.
KRRGG
HOW ABOUT SOME TEA THEN?

LUCIA-SAN?!
WHAT ARE YOU--?
OR PERHAPS A VACCINE?
BUT I DON'T WANT EITHER.
THANKS FOR THE OFFER...
BUT IF YOU'RE TAKING REQUESTS ...
KYOKO-CHAN...?!
?!

I'D LOVE TO SEE THIS LITTLE ONE'S PAINED FACE.
BZZZT

LIGHT-NING...?!
OH MY GOD, YOU'RE ...
I'VE FELT THIS BEFORE...
YOU'RE ...
RUKA ...?!


THIS IS STILL A TERRIBLY AMUSING GAME, DON'T YOU THINK...
SUMIRE-CHAN?

HEE HEE
SAW RIGHT THROUGH ME, HM? I KNEW YOU WOULD.
BUT...
PROBABLY. WHOEVER'S CONTROLLING THAT BODY ISN'T ITS ORIGINAL OWNER.

AHA HA HA HA HA!!!
YOU'RE SO CUTE WHEN YOU'RE MAD! ❤
!
WHERE'S KYOKO-CHAN?!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HER?!
WHRL
SWING
SWING
.....!
SWING
I WONDER... IF I WAS WEARING YOUR PRECIOUS "YOSHIKI'S" FACE...
HOW CUTE WOULD YOU LOOK THEN?

BZZT
STILL AS STUPID AS BEFORE, I SEE. THAT GUN DOESN'T WORK ON ME--
!!
?!

CHK
WHAT THE...?!
BLAM
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU...
FOOLISH ...!
.....!!
SUMIRE! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

TO BE CONTINUED...

POSTSCRIPT

HELLO, EVERYONE. THIS IS SUZUMI.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR DECIDING TO PICK UP "V.V.V." VOLUME 2! AS BEFORE, I COULDN'T HAVE PUT THIS VOLUME TOGETHER WITHOUT HELP FROM LOTS OF OTHER VERY GENEROUS PEOPLE. THANK YOU!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT TO ME IT FEELS LIKE VOLUME 1 CAME OUT JUST A FEW DAYS AGO. NOW THAT I'VE FINISHED UP THE SHORT SERIES I HAD GOING IN ANOTHER ANTHOLOGY, I HAD THOUGHT I WOULD BE ABLE TO TONE DOWN MY PACE AND RELAX A LITTLE MORE, BUT THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN, OF COURSE. I HAD TO MOVE WHILE I WAS WORKING ON THIS VOLUME, SO I ENDED UP BEING IN A TOTAL RUSH THE ENTIRE TIME ANYWAY. TIME SURE FLIES WHEN YOU AREN'T PAYING ATTENTION, DOESN'T IT? I MEAN, IT'S BEEN AN ENTIRE YEAR SINCE I FIRST CAME UP WITH THE IDEA FOR THIS SERIES! I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO MESS AROUND ANYMORE, DO I...? I SERIOUSLY NEED TO BECOME THE KIND OF PERSON WHO CAN KEEP A SCHEDULE AND EFFECTIVELY USE EVERY HOUR OF THE DAY.
(←USUALLY JUST WINGS IT DAY AFTER DAY)

THANK YOU TO MY SUPERVISOR, TAKAJIMA-SAMA, WHO ALWAYS SUPPORTS ME, DESPITE MY UTTER INABILITY TO PLAN.

THANK YOU TO ISSEKI-SAMA, WHOSE WONDERFUL DESIGNS ALWAYS LEAVE ME FEELING GREAT.

THANK YOU TO ALL YOU READERS OUT THERE WHO HAVE SENT ME LETTERS FULL OF SUPPORT THAT HELP ME KEEP GOING.

THANK YOU, EVERYONE, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART. I HOPE FOR YOUR CONTINUED HELP AND GOOD WILL THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE SERIES!

2006.4 鈴見敦

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JAPANESE HONORIFICS GUIDE

To ensure that all character relationships appear as they were originally intended, all character names have been kept in their original Japanese name order with family name first and given name second. For copyright reasons, creator names appear in standard English name order.

In addition to preserving the original Japanese name order, Seven Seas is committed to ensuring that honorifics—polite speech that indicates a person's status or relationship towards another individual—are retained within this book. Politeness is an integral facet of Japanese culture and we believe that maintaining honorifics in our translations helps bring out the same character nuances as seen in the original work.

The following are some of the more common honorifics you may come across while reading this and other books:

-san – The most common of all honorifics, it is an all-purpose suffix that can be used in any situation where politeness is expected. Generally seen as the equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., etc.

-sama – This suffix is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect upon an individual.

-dono – Stemming from the word "tono," meaning "lord," "-dono" signifies an even higher level than "-sama," and confers the utmost respect.

-kun – This suffix is commonly used at the end of boys' names to express either familiarity or endearment. It can also be used when addressing someone younger than oneself or of a lower status.

-chan – Another common honorific. This suffix is mainly used to express endearment towards girls, but can also be used when referring to little boys or even pets. Couples are also known to use the term amongst each other to convey a sense of cuteness and intimacy.

Sempai – This title is used towards one's senior or "superior" in a particular group or organization. "Sempai" is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to upperclassmen as "sempai," though it is also commonly said by employees when addressing fellow employees who hold seniority in the workplace.

Kouhai – This is the exact opposite of "sempai," and is used to refer to underclassmen in school, junior employees at the workplace, etc.

Sensei – Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

Oniisan – This title literally means "big brother." First and foremost, it is used by younger siblings towards older male siblings. It can be used by itself or attached to a person's name as a suffix (niisan). It is often used by a younger person toward an older person unrelated by blood, but as a sign of respect. Other forms include the informal "oniichan" and the more respectful "oniisama."

Oneesan – This title is the opposite of "oniisan" and means "big sister." Other forms include the informal "oneechan" and the more respectful "oneesama."

TRANSLATION NOTES

98.3
A *"kekkai"* is a magical barrier or protective ward.

Venus versus Virus

ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイアラス

VOLUME 2

story & art by Atsushi Suzumi

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Venus Versus Virus

ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイアラス

OMAKE